アデカン

艶漢

WINGS COMICS

艶漢【アデカン】6 尚月地

Tsukiji NAO presents!

Tsukiji NAO

新書館

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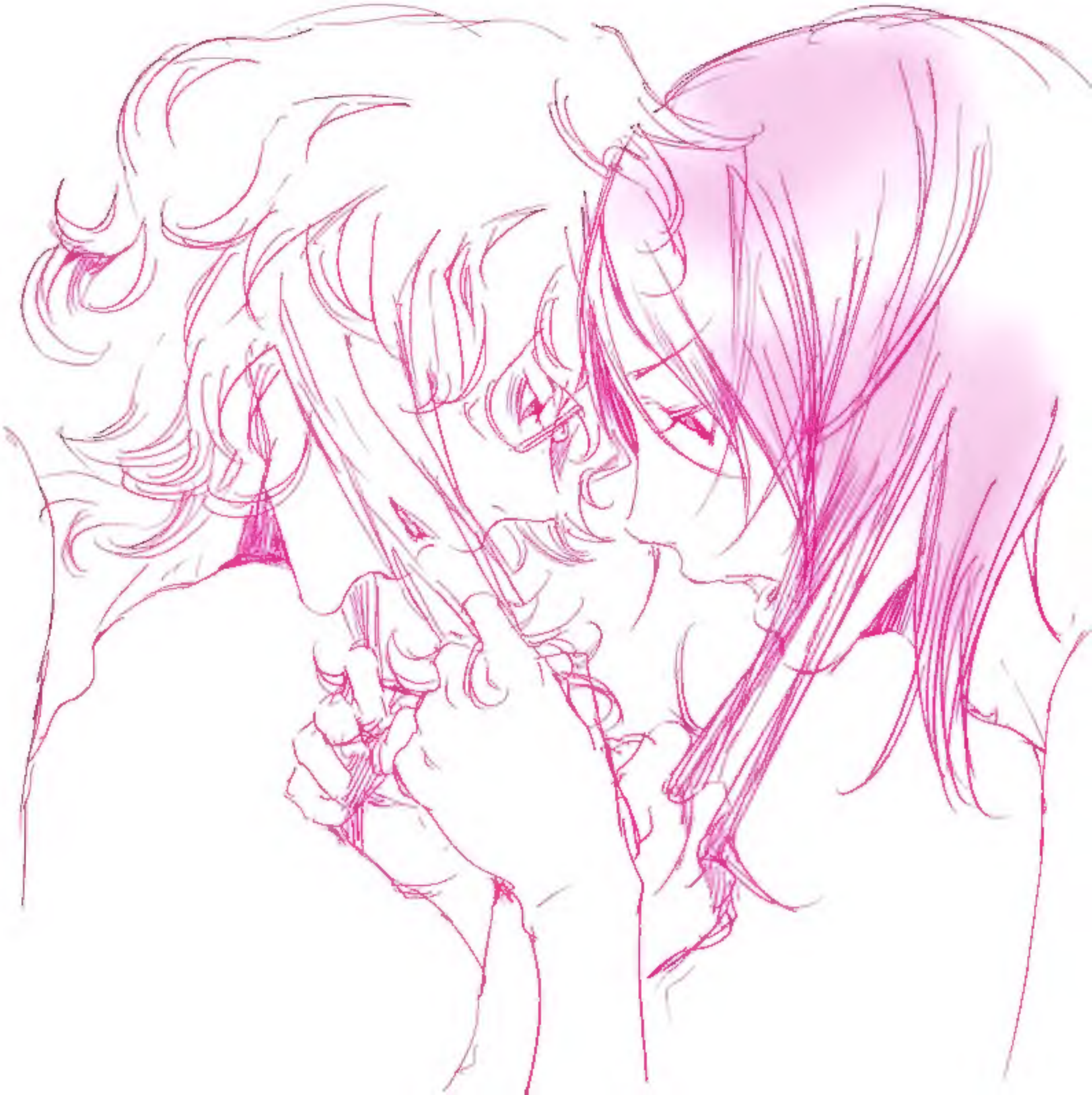
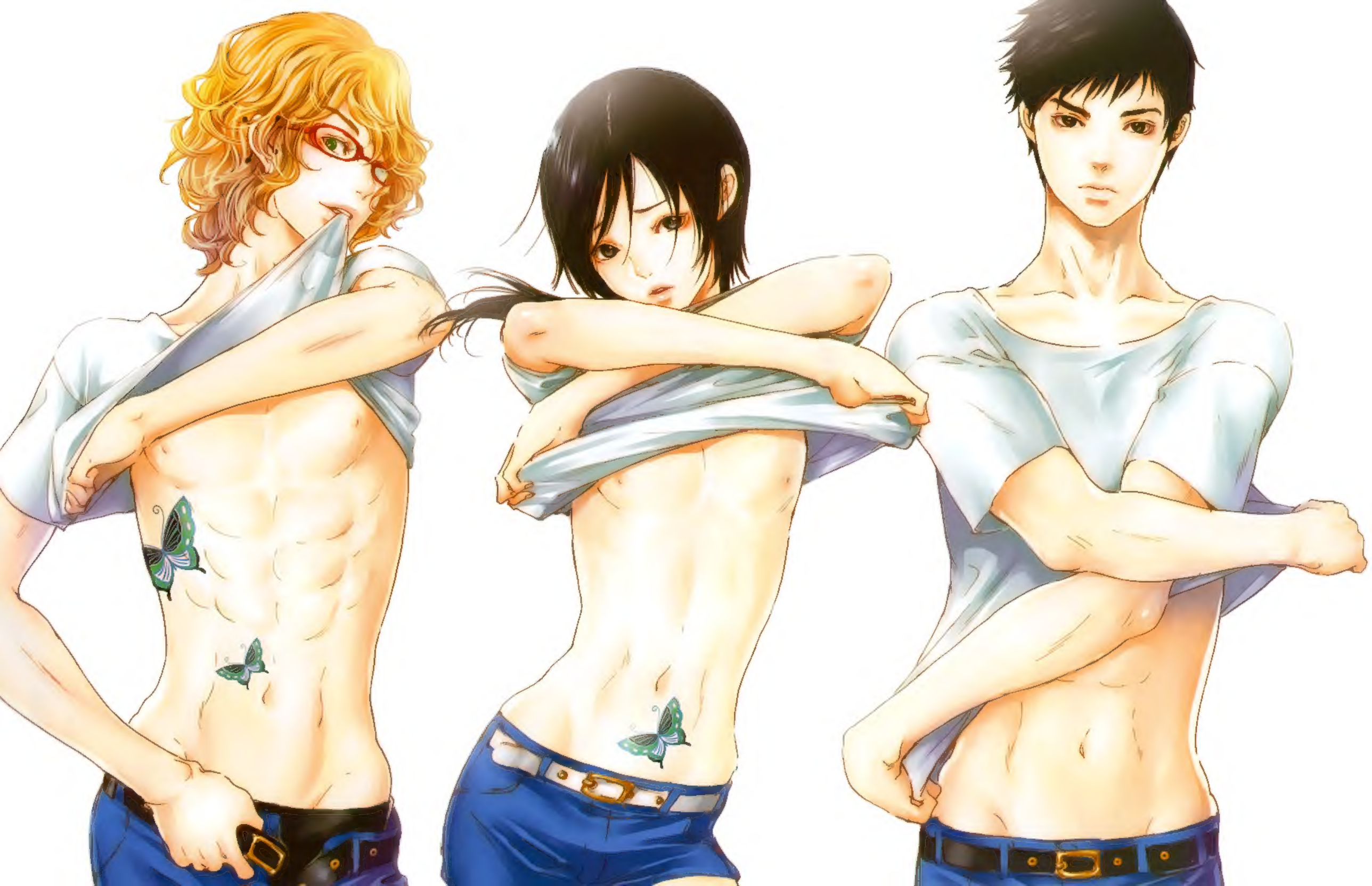
There is Shiro: a loose, slovenly, beautiful, woman-admirer (shamelessly so) umbrella maker (in his teens, fragile as glass) who always acts upon his whim and always has his 'thing' dangling because he's a no-fun (which means he hates wearing fundoshi <3). And then there is Kojiro: a hot blooded, simple and honest, righteous officer who likes taking care of people (he's also muscular, handsome, and a cat-lover). Now this is the 6th compilation of the pair's meeting and their involvement in a series of melodramatic, erotic incidents set in Showa Japan!!





6

尚月地

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WHEN I PEEK INTO HIS DEPTHS Part 1

201 Extra Manga ~ Adekan Corporation ~

SAOTOME MIZUHIKO

Height: 177cm
Weight: 65 kg
Age: 44
Birthday: October 29
Zodiac: Scorpion
Blood type: AB

Favorite foods: Grilled ayu fish seasoned with salt; boiled eggplant with soumen, oroshi-mochi, clam clear soup, mizutaki, Chinese noodles, sweet potato in shiruko.

Foods he hates: Natto, garlic etc.: all dishes with strong aroma.

Favorite colors: Purple, black, grey, madder red, sky blue.

What he likes: Hari-kun (aka Sakihana Rurimaru), setting traps to prank people, devising wicked schemes, plotting things inside his head, all outdoor sports, reading, visiting museums, playing with machines.

What he hates: Not related to "hatred" per se, but he wants to obliterate every single person who tries to trick Hari-kun.

What he's not good at: swordplay, being scolded by Hari-kun.

Note:
Ayu fish = sweetfish
Soumen = fine white noodles
Oroshi-mochi = mochi served with grated radish
Mizutaki = chicken meat and vegetables stewed in a pot on a dining table
Shiruko = sweet porridge traditionally made with azuki beans

SAKIHANA RURIMARU

Height: 165 cm

Weight: 85 kg

Age:46

Birthday: April 16th

Zodiac: Aries

Blood type: A

Favorite foods: Rice with minced sea bream, bamboo shoots in Japanese-style soup, wasabi-flavored shiraae, hitsumabushi, pacific saury grilled with salt

Foods he hates: All bitter foods

Favorite colors: Yellow, purple, green, white, orange

What he likes: Taking good care of his wife and son, making DIY stuff, hanashougi (Note: flower shougi, see the 7th Story in Vol. 2), training his subordinates, writing poems

What he hates: Social evils in general, being called "Hari-kun" by Saotome (he told Saotome to quit calling him that, but Saotome wouldn't listen so he's giving up)

What he's not good at: exterminating vermin, calligraphy, hot foods (he can't take hot food or drink)

Note:
Shiraae: tofu and vegetables dressed with sesame sauce
Hitsumabushi: grilled eel fillets served on rice
Shougi: Japanese chess

ABOUT...

Part 2

The seventeenth story

THE INNOCENT INFILTRATOR

ABOUT THE WORLD HERE...?

RATTLE

RATTLE

THIS PLACE IS CALLED THE "ORGANIZATION".

WHAT "ORGANIZATION"? THERE'S NO NAME TO THIS ORGANIZATION.

THIS IS A PLACE UNKNOWN TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

I KNOW YOU'RE SHOCKED BECAUSE YOU WERE SUDDENLY DRAGGED INTO A PLACE LIKE THIS.

WELL, NO HARM IN KNOWING, I SUPPOSE.

A PLACE CALLED "THE LAND OF MEAT".

THE GATES YOU ALMOST PASSED THROUGH JUST NOW ARE LOCATED THERE.

Note: The kanji 国 in 肉の国 can also be translated as country, state, nation

ANYHOW, THIS "ORGANIZATION" EXISTS TO PROTECT THE LAND OF MEAT.

A LAND OF ***MEAT*** FOR PEOPLE OLDER THAN *18*... I CAN FEEL MY HEART POUNDING.

YOU'LL FEEL STRONGLY PROVOKED IF I TELL YOU. IT'S RESTRICTED TO PEOPLE OLDER THAN 18.

UM. . WHAT EXACTLY IS THE LAND OF MEAT?

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE A SLAVE THERE, BUT THANKS TO ME, YOU WERE SAVED.

DIVIDED INTO FOUR AREAS. NORTH, EAST, SOUTH, AND WEST.

AS YOU CAN SEE, THE "ORGANIZATION" IS...

LOOK.

AND I'M ONE OF THE FORCE'S ASSASSINS.

THE NORTHERN TROUPE WHERE I LIVE IS THE RULER OF THE "MILITARY FORCE".

WHAT!? FOR THE REST OF... I CAN'T GET OUT OF THIS PLACE!?

IT'S ONE OF THE SLAVE CODES HERE.

AND YOU'LL LIVE IN THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

YOU WERE ABDUCTED FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD TO WORK HERE.

JUST GIVE UP THE THOUGHT OF RETURNING TO YOUR OLD WAY OF LIVING. YOU'RE MY SLAVE FOR LIFE NOW.

...NO...

I EVEN MET THE PERSON I WANTED TO MEET AFTER A LONG WAIT!

B-BUT!! I LEFT THE BOONIES THINKING THAT I COULD FINALLY BE INDEPENDENT!

SFX: BAM BAM

COME ON! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

NO!! I DON'T WANT ANY OF THIS!!

NOO OOO!! LET ME OFF!!

I'M GOING HOME!!

I'M GOING HO-ME!!

FLAIL

NO! I SAID NO!!

THE RAIL-CAR ABOVE US IS SO LOUD.

rattle rattle

UWA AAH!! AHHH!!

CALM DOWN, MORON!!!

AHAHA

MAYBE THEY'RE HAVING SEX IN THE RAILCAR?

BAM BAM

OH...

HUH?

DRIP

ANRI...

AND WHY MY TEARS FLOWED OUT THE MOMENT I SAW H.M...

I WONDER WHO THAT GUY IS...

DUN- NO

STARTLED

W- WHAT'S WRONG, ANRI!!

WRON GGGG !!!

CRYING 'CAUSE YOU'RE JEALOUS OF THEM HAVING SEX IN THE RAILCAR IS A BIT TOO MUCH, Y'KNOW...

YOU...

I'M NOT *THAT* JEALOUS TO THE POINT WHERE I FEEL LIKE CRYING!!

RATTLE

RATTLE

YOU *ARE* A BIT JEALOUS THEN...

HUH!? I WAS WRO- NG!?

QUIT MAKING SUCH A SAD FACE! HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO TREAT ME LIKE A PERVERT!!

DON'T ACT SO SURPRI- SED!! IT MAKES ME MAD!!

GEEZ... TO THINK THAT I SAVED YOU 'CAUSE YOU LOOK LIKE ENSUKE...

UHH... UH -

WE'RE GOING TO MY HOUSE NOW!!

QUICK, GET OFF!

EN-SUKE!!

IT'S REALLY YOU, ANIKI!!

WELCOME BACK!

ANIKI!

!

HAHA! STUPID, YOU KNOW I WON'T DIE AND LEAVE YOU ALONE!!

YOU HAD ME WORRIED!

ANIKI, WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?

RUN

Kinda looks like me...

He...

Whoa..

ANIKI, WHO'S THAT GUY?

SQUEEZE

!

WHO WOULD?! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME!

HE'S JUST A SER-VANT!!

...ANIKI, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE CHEATING ON ME!?

HE GIVES OFF THE SAME VIBE THAT YOU DO.

I ENDED UP BUYING HIM.

...

THIS IS MY YOUNGER SWORN BROTHER, ENSUKE

OH, YES WE'RE LIKE "THAT".

HM?

...WHAT . ?

FROZEN

He surprised me... so they're like that...

AH - RIGHT.

IPPEI, COME. I'LL TEACH YOU LOTS OF THINGS.

AMPH!

IGNORE

ENSUKE, THIS IS IPPEI, WHO'LL BE OUR SERVANT FROM NOW ON.

YES.

THAT COLLAR SUITS YOU.

...

LISTEN, YOU MUST OBEY EVERYTHING MY FAMILY TELLS YOU.

THE BLUE STONE IS THE NORTHERN TROUPE SYMBOL. THE TAG IS PROOF THAT YOU'RE MY SLAVE.

THE CODES HERE DECLARE THAT EVERY SLAVE MUST WEAR THAT COLLAR.

Bu...

Bu...

Bu...

Bu...

YOU HAVE A WIFE!? BUT YOU'RE WITH ENSUKE-SAN!

ASIDE FROM ENSUKE, MY FAMILY CONSISTS OF MY WIFE, SUE.

WHAT!!

BUMP

BUMP

THIS IS THE MIDDLE CLASS WHERE MEN WITHOUT WIVES ARE MOCKED BY EVERYONE.

OUR MARRIAGE IS ONLY ON PAPER.

FOR ME, THERE'S ONLY ENSUKE.

SHE'S BEEN WEIRD LIKE THAT FOR THE PAST YEAR.

I DID MARRY SUE BUT I NEVER TREAT HER AS MY PARTNER.

...BUT, YOUR WIFE'S CONDITION IS WEIRD.

AH, YES. I LOVE THEM!

IPPEI, DO YOU LIKE WOMEN?

FOR ME... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

SHE'S YOUR WIFE BUT YOU NEVER TOUCH HER!? WHAT A WASTE!

His cowardice makes him popular amongst older women.

Ippei-chan, you're so cute! You're so big yet so adorable~

Ippei-chan, you're so cute~

HA HA

BACK IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE, MY MOM OFTEN SCOLDED ME FOR BEING AROUND WOMEN TOO MUCH.

IF A LOWER RANK MAN TOUCHES A HIGHER RANK MAN'S WOMAN,

HIS PUNISHMENT IS INSTANT DEATH.

DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU CAN TOUCH HER.

THEN I'M WARN-ING YOU:

JUST BECAUSE I'M NOT INTER-ESTED IN SUE,

I'VE BROUGHT YOU GOOD NEWS.

OH, I ALMOST FORGOT. ENSUKE,

!!!

whisper

I FOUND SHIRO.

TOMORROW, I'LL REPORT THIS TO THE NORTHERN TROUPE LEADER.

...

OKAY...

GULP

UM... BY "GOOD NEWS" ARE YOU REFERRING TO THE CUTE GIRL IN THE PICTURE EARLIER?

GRIN

I- IS THIS FOR REAL!? ANIKI, YOU'RE AWESOME!

Note: Ippei still doesn't know that "the cute girl in the pict." = Shiro = "he/him", because Uematsu uses a unisex third-person pronoun "aitsu" to address Shiro.

THE FUTURE OF ALL MEN IN THIS ORGANIZATION DEPENDS ON HIM ALONE.

YOU MUST-NOT SAY ANY MORE ...!

ANIKI!!

THAT'S RIGHT. HE'S THE NUCLEUS OF THIS "ORGANIZATION"

OH. AH.. REALLY?

whisper
HEY, IPPEI. LOOK AT THIS.
EH?
STEP STEP
HAHA... SORRY.
STAND
DON'T YOU TH'NK YOU DRANK A BIT TOO MUCH, ANIKI?

Netsuke - miniature sculptures hung by cords

BECAUSE TOMORROW WILL BE A GOOD DAY, I'M PLANNING TO GIVE TH'S AS A SuR-PRISE TO HIM.
HEHE ISN'T IT GOOD? I BOUGHT IT AS A SOUVEN'R FOR ENSUKE.
OH! A NE-TSUKE!

I thought he was scary...
But he might not be that scary after all...?

Some-how...
YES, YES. . J J
THIS IS A HIGH-QUALITY ITEM!
BUT YOU HAVE TO KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM ENSUKE!
Shhh!

RATTLE

RATTLE

THE NEXT DAY...

TODAY WE'RE GOING TO REPORT WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT YESTERDAY TO THE NORTHERN TROUPE LEADER.

RATTLE

RATTLE

THIS IS A DIRECT RAILCAR TO THE TROUPE LEADER'S MANSION.

RATTLE

RATTLE

YES.

I'VE ACHIEVED SOMETHING BIG, SO I'M SURE THEY'LL REWARD ME.

AS MY FAMILY MEMBERS, YOU ALL MUST PROPERLY GREET THE TROUPE LEADER.

WHAT IS A "TROUPE LEADER"?

EXCUSE ME, BUT. .

WE CALL THEM TROUPE LEADERS.

EACH OF THE FOUR AREAS IN THIS ORGANIZATION HAS ITS OWN LEADER.

BAT

THE NORTHERN TROUPE LEADER IS AN EX-TRAORDI-NARY MAN.

SINCE HE'S THE STRONGEST AMONG THE TROUPE LEADERS...

NOD

...EN-SUKE?

...HUH?

UGH!

SLASH

SHUT UP!!!

ARE YOU FEELING.. UNWELL?

WHAT'S WRONG .. ENSLUKE...

OUR LIVES ARE AL-READY OVER!!

WHO GIVES A DAMN ABOUT YOU AND YOUR BIG ACHIEVE-MENT!?

SI-LENCE!! IF YOU DON'T WANNA BE KILLED KEEP QUIET!!

E-ENSLUKE-SAN! WHAT ARE Y--

Eeek!

SLASH

EEK!!!

THUD

WHEEZE

WHEEZE

E.. ENSU-KE....

WHY...

WITH MY CHILD.

SUE IS PREGNANT

SUE AND I ARE IN LOVE.

W- WHAT ...

?!

IF THIS FACT IS DISCOVERED, BOTH SUE AND I WILL BE EXECUTED RIGHT?

SUE'S BELLY IS GETTING BIGGER...

BUT THIS IS THE END.

THE EXECUTIONERS WILL CAPTURE US AND WE'LL BE QUESTIONED UNTIL WE DIE.

I KNOW THAT TRYING TO ESCAPE IS FUTILE.

WHY...

wheeze

ENSUKE..

SUE AND I WILL BECOME ONE IN THE WORLD OF THE DEAD.

AND WE'LL KILL OURSELVES.

SO I'LL KILL YOU.

STAB

STOP CALLING MY NAME!!

YOU'RE DISGUSTING ME!!

BECAUSE YOU'RE MY ELDER SWORN BROTHER, I COULDN'T DISOBEY YOU! I WAS SCARED OF YOU!!

EVER SINCE I WAS A KID I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO LISTEN TO YOU!! IT WAS ALL AN ACT!

STAB

I'VE **NEVER** HARBORED ANY RO-MANTIC FEELINGS TOWARD YOU!! NOT EVEN ONCE!!

PULL

...

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

EN... SUKE...

wheeze

wheeze

E... EN... SUKE...

NO!!

WE CAN BE ONE IN THE OTHER WORLD!!

NOW, SUE!! LET'S GO TOGETHER!

?!

BUT I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH YOU!!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING! WE HAVE TO! WE MUST KEEP OUR LOVE!!

I KNEW IT!! I DON'T WANT TO DIE!!!

MUST I GO THRO-UGH THIS...

SO WHY ...

ALL I DID WAS ACCEPT YOUR INVITA-TION..

I JUST FELT LONELY BECAUSE I WAS CON-STANTLY NEGLECTED...

GRIP

AAAAA

SUE!!

SUE!!

Y- YOU'RE LYING!!

AAARGH

UWAAA

IT'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS *YOU* DIE, RIGHT!? *AAAAAA!!*

RMG

ARGH!! SPLATTER

SPLATTER

AAAH!

SHIVER

SHIVER

GYAAA

AAAAGH

THE NORTHERN TROUPE LEADER'S MANSION

RAILCAR STATION

SEEMS LIKE HE'S COMING HERE WITH HIS WHOLE FAMILY.

THE TALK MUST BE A SERIOUS ONE... THAT GUY'S GOT GUTS.

YEAH. THEY DID INFORM US. THEY'LL PROBABLY BE HERE IN A MINUTE.

I HEARD A GUY IS COMING TO HAVE A TALK WITH THE TROUPE LEADER.

...?!

GRIND

GRIND

OH, THEY ARE HERE.

GRIND

GRIND

GRIND

GRIND

TROUPE LEADER'S HALL

WHAT THE HEL...

H-HEY, WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING HERE!

...SO?

HE'S IN SUCH A SHOCK THAT HE CAN'T STAND UP.

YES, NII-SAMA.

SHIVER

SHIVER

HE'S THE ONLY SURVIVOR AMONG THE PRISONERS INSIDE THE RAILCAR?

SHIVER

SHIVER

AFTER THAT, THE YOUNGER SWORN BROTHER KILLED HIMSELF.

ACCORDING TO THIS MAN, HEMATSU THE ASSASSIN AND HIS WIFE WERE KILLED BY HEMATSU'S YOUNGER SWORN BROTHER.

THE PROBLEM NOW IS THAT THE INFORMATION THAT THIS ASSASSIN HAD WANTED TO TELL NII-SAMA HAS BECOME UNATTAINABLE.

IDIOTIC.

...IT APPEARS THAT HE WAS BLINDED BY PASSION.

THE OTHER TWO ASSASSINS' WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN.

THREE OF OUR ASSASSINS WENT TO ASSASSINATE AN APOTHECARY IN GENTO-CHO LAST MONTH. AND HEMATSU HERE WAS ONE OF THEM.

T/N: Refer to Vol. 3 Chapter 12.

...

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT IT IS? FROM THAT COLLAR OF YOURS, YOU MUST BE HEMATSU'S SLAVE, CORRECT?

...

I BELIEVE THE MATTER HE WANTED TO DISCUSS WITH YOU WAS IMPORTANT.

IT WAS... A GIRL WITH... LONG, BLACK HAIR. HE SAID... THE GIRL WAS... SOMEONE IMPORTANT...

...WHAT?

IT LOOKS LIKE... HE WANTED TO TALK ABOUT, A CERTAIN... CUTE GIRL..

I... I'M NOT REALLY SURE BUT..

. THIS IS RIDI-CULOUS.

KILL THE SLAVE.

whisper

...I'M DISGUSTED. IT SEEMS LIKE HE-MATSU HAD A WOMAN HE WANTED TO OFFER TO YOU, NII-SAMA.

sigh

UNIFT

!

sob

sob

sob

TURN

..
YESSIR.

SLIDE

pat.

WHAT'S WRONG, HARUZUMI.

He just closed his master's eyes...

UHH!

UGH...

UH...

TURN

NII-SAMA...

whispey

I'M SURE HE'S THE KIND OF PERSON ANRI WOULD LIKE.

LET'S SPARE HIS LIFE. THIS IS JUST MY INTUITION, BUT THAT MAN MIGHT BE ABLE TO KILL ANRI.

LET ME USE HIM.

I BEG YOU.

PLEASE TRUST MY EYES.

TURN

step

step

Aha

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

. FINE.

HU

G

...

I'LL LET YOU HAVE SOME REST.

I'M SURE YOU HAD IT ROUGH...

POOR YOU..

AHH...

AL-RIGHT ...

NOW, THESE ARE SIMPLE MEALS, BUT DO EAT THEM.

UM... WHY ARE YOU TREATING ME SO KINDLY?

THIS IS JUST HOW I PER-SONALLY FEEL.

I WANT YOU TO FEEL BETTER, EVEN FOR A MOMENT.

MY HEART WAS MOVED WHEN I SAW YOU CRYING OVER YOUR DECEASED MASTER.

I was right. He's so stupid it's scary...

REALLY?

CHUCKLE

YOU'RE THE FIRST GENTLE PERSON I'VE MET SINCE I CAME HERE.

YOU KNOW...

IT'S ALRIGHT ...

SLIP

AH! I'LL DO IT MYSE--

...SEE HERE, YOU HAVE TO EAT BEFORE IT GETS COLDER.

CLATTER

I'M THE NORTHERN TROUPE LEADER'S YOUNGER SWORN BROTHER, SAKURA HARU-ZUMI.

YOU ARE?

...OTA-CHI .. IPPE ...

DAZED

This person is... so kind...

I KNOW!

...YUMMY .

SMILE

!!

YEAH... I MIGHT BE HIS SLAVE BUT TRUTH IS HE ONLY BOUGHT ME YESTERDAY...

MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY FOR WHAT HAPPENED TODAY.

OTACHI-KUN, YOU'RE THAT ASSA-SSIN'S SLAVE RIGHT?

IT LOOKS LIKE I WAS KIDNAPPED AND BROUGHT HERE...

YEAH ...

SO UNTIL YESTERDAY, YOU WERE RAISED IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD?

UMM, IS IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO RETURN TO MY OLD HOUSE?

MUST I... LIVE HERE FOR THE REST OF MY... LIFE?

He just arrived yesterday!?

He'll be easy to control!!

Such an ideal man for the task!!

I SEE . IT MUST HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TO BEAR...

EVEN MY MASTER IS DEAD... AND HERE I THOUGHT HE WASN'T SUCH A BAD PERSON

I JUST WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE.

I DON'T KNOW MUCH, BUT... THIS PLACE IS SCARY ..

BECAUSE YOU MUST LIVE IN THIS ORGANIZATION FROM NOW ON.

YOU HAVE TO GET USED TO LIVING HERE...

BUT, THAT'S JUST HOW THINGS WORK IN THIS PLACE.

IT'S A VERY DIFFICULT PROCESS, THOUGH.

WHAT IS IT!? I'LL DO ANY-THING!!

WHAT?!

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY IF YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS PLACE.

... THAT'S JUST...

BEHIND THAT TOWER IS THE SOUTHERN TROUPE.

IF YOU LOOK SOUTH FROM HERE...

YOU MUST KILL HIM.

THE SOUTH-ERN TROUPE LEADER IS...

A MAN CALLED ANRI.

OH, NO... ANRI IS A MAN AS WICKED AS THE DEVIL. HE'S NOT HUMAN ANY-MORE..

B-BUT. MURDER IS...!

...WHAT?!

AND I THINK IF ANRI IS NOT AROUND, RELEASING YOU WILL BE POSSIBLE.

That's a lie though...

UNDER THAT, HE'S ACTUALLY THE ONE HOLDING REAL POWER OVER THE ORGANI-ZATION.

HE MIGHT BE A TROUPE LEADER ON THE SUR-FACE, BUT...

I'M SURE YOU CAN GET CLOSER TO HIM.

ANRI HAS A LIKING FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

This guy knows nothing about this place. I can deceive him.

But...

The person who truly holds power over this organization stands above all troupe leaders.

And so I realized...

All this time, no matter how clever or strong the assassins we dispatched, none of them were accepted by Anri.

It's true.

ACTUALLY, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU.

Social status or talents are of secondary importance to him.

Anri intuitively allows only people that he likes to approach him.

...Stupid. Victory is already mine.

KILLING IS AN UNFORGIVABLE ACT, NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON IS.

...YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. SORRY FOR SAYING SOMETHING SO STRANGE.

...BUT... STILL... I DON'T THINK I CAN...

I've done a research on Anri's favorite types of people.

SLIDE

EXCUSE ME

I'M GOING TO PREPARE SOME TEA.

You won't be able to stand it, and you will kill Anri.

The drug I put inside the soup is gradually working.

CREEP

OI.

SHUT

Y..

YES SIR.

FUFU ..

ONCE HE LEAVES THIS MAN-SION,

PLOT IT SO THAT HE GETS CLOSER TO ANRI. BUT YOU ARE TO STAY HIDDEN.

WELL THEN...

THANKS ...

THESE PASSES ALLOW YOU TO ENTER THE SOUTH-ERN AND EASTERN TROUPES. THEY MIGHT BE USEFUL LATER.

YEAH...

I CAN'T LET YOU STAY HERE FOR-EVER.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU BUT

ALSO, HERE ARE SOME SIMPLE CLOTHES FOR YOU TO CHANGE INTO, WRITING UTENSILS, AND A WATER BOTTLE.

YOU CAN AFFORD A LUNCH WITH ONE STONE.

WOW! THEY'RE PRETTY!

I'M GIVING THEM TO YOU.

AND, THESE STONES ARE THE MONEY HERE.

ALRIGHT THEN, BE CAREFUL.

THE FIRST THING YOU MUST DO ONCE YOU'RE OUT THERE IS FIND A GOOD MASTER.

CREAK

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR EVERYTHING...

GENTOCHO? IS THAT YOUR HOMETOWN?

I... I WILL GO BACK TO GENTOCHO!!

Soon his head will be filled with the thoughts of escaping this place.

He won't last.

A coward like him will never get accustomed to life here.

YEAH! WE RECENTLY MET EACH OTHER AFTER SO MANY YEARS!

I SEE... IS HE AN IM-PORTANT FRIEND?

NO, IT'S THE TOWN WHERE KO-CHAN...

MY FRIEND, LIVES!

!

BUT I WAS SURPRISED WHEN I SAW HIM TOGETHER WITH A THIN GUY NAMED SHIRO.

Blah blah blah... Just go...

During the time I didn't see him. Ko-chan be-came even stronger and cooler!

Impossible, right...

BY "SHIRO" .. ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...

... SHIRO ...?

...YOSHI-WARA SHIRO?

HM? YEAH. I THINK THAT WAS HIS NAME.

IS HE SOME-ONE YOU KNOW, HARUZU-MI-SAN?

IS HE... UMM... A YOUNG, SKINNY MAN WHO'S SO PRETTY THAT EVERYONE THINKS HE'S A WOMAN?

UH-UH. THAT'S HIM!

HE'S A MAN, BUT HE'S CUTER THAN A GIRL

HM?

GENTO-CHO'S SHOPPING DISTRICT. HE RUNS AN UM-BRELLA SHOP THERE.

THAT.. BOY, WHERE DOES HE LIVE NOW...?

...WHY WOULD YOU ASK THAT FAR?

..AH

NO...

Nah...

There's no need for that... because now I know...

THUMP THUMP

Should I drag him to Nii-sama now...!?

THUMP

What do I do...?!

What should I do with this man!?

YEAH.. THANKS!

WE SHOULD PART WAYS HERE.

I HOPE WE CAN MEET AGAIN SOME-DAY!

IT'S NOTHING, REALLY... I JUST HAVE AN ACQUAIN-TANCE WITH THE SAME NAME.

J

exhale

...where Shiro is.

DASH

...Yes!! I never thought I could discover Shiro's whereabouts like this!

This victory belongs to Nii-sama and me!!

TURN

A QUICK REPORT!

NII-SAMA!!

NII-SAMA!!

We won!!

DASH

CHATTER

CHATTER

SO THIS IS THE NORTH-ERN TROUPE'S TOWN...

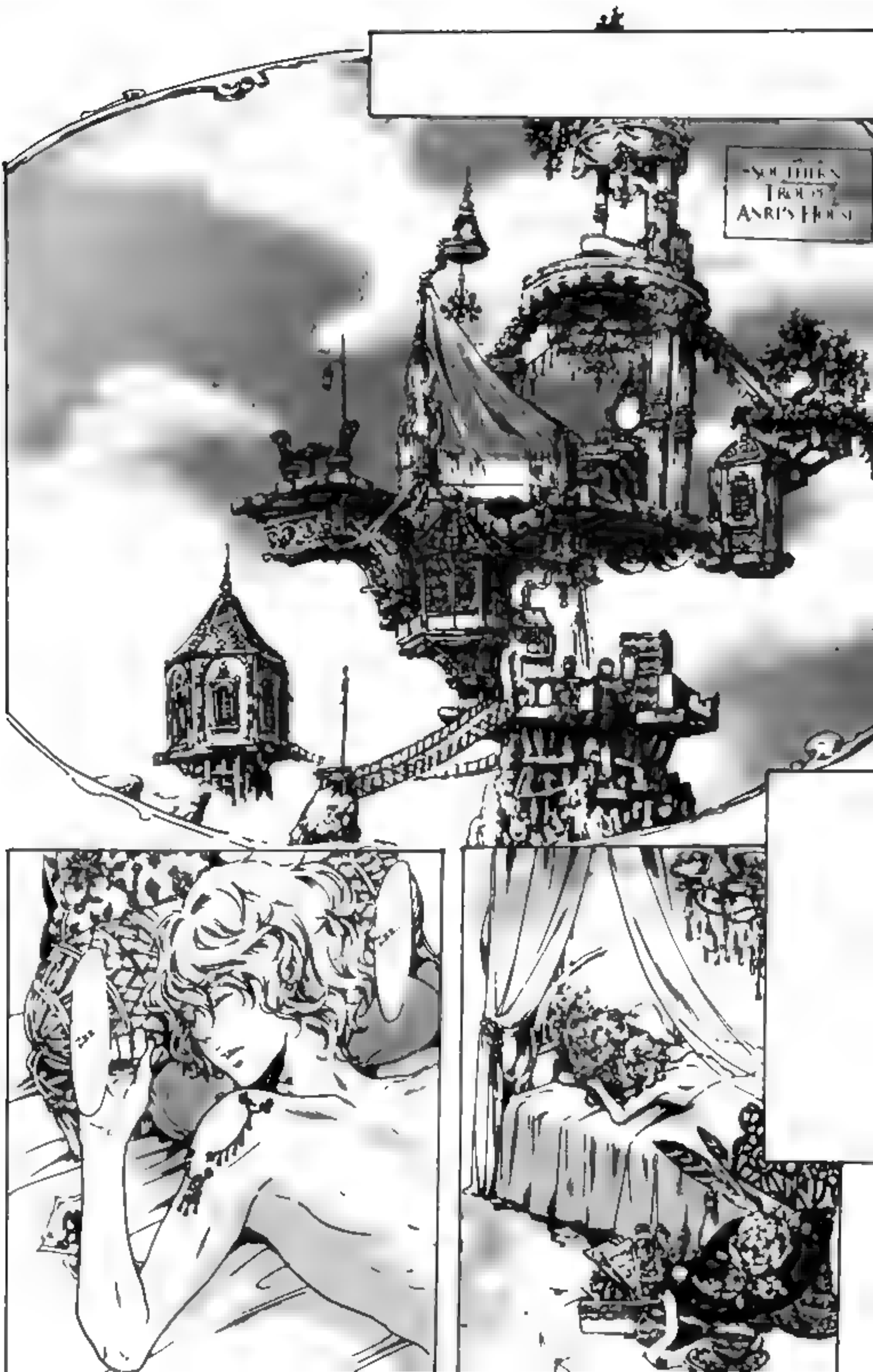
CLACK!

GULP

What will happen to me next...

Wh...

CLAMOR



ANRI
-CHAN.

ANRI
-CHAN..

-CHAN

NNH...

ANRI-
CHAN!!

OH,
YOU'RE
AWAKE.
ANRI.

SHIN-
ZO...

get up

...

BLINK

HE'S COME TO THIS ORGANIZATION.

THE GUY WHO CAN KILL ME.

AHA HAHA!

plop

SIIIIGH

RATTLE

IF YOU ORDER ME TO, I'LL EVEN SLEEP NEXT TO YOU.

It's a hassle though

YOU HAD A WEIRD DREAM, HUH. CLOTHE YOURSELF PROPERLY, DRINK WARM MILK, AND GO TO SLEEP.

You're still a brat after all

... ANRI ...

DO I?

gulp gulp

SOMETIMES, YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO PISS ME OFF.

And the pajamas you bought are awful

END

Raws: monn
Translator: monn
Proofreader: enchantedlights
Cleaner: Selva666d
Typesetter: Itoxpinky
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E- Emer... What!? Ehh!? Officer, don't go around spouting nonsense!
THIS IS EMER-GENCY! I NEED YOU TO SAVE ADEKAN BY APPLYING NOW!!
BE OUR JAPANESE-ENGLISH TRANS-LATORS!!
PAWR

My husband...

is cheating on me.

With young that... woman.

!!

SFX: DASH

I will get my husband back... No matter what.

clack

Nothing satisfies me more than this brutality.

SLASH

KYAAAA

The eighteenth story

The eighteenth story
THE LIVING FLOWER
Part 1

One week ago...

...SHI-RO-KUN!

WHAT'S WITH THAT OUTFIT?

'ES. I'M IN DIS-GUISE.

I LOOK LIKE A STU-DENT NOW, DON'T I?

ERR, WELL, I HAVE SOME MINOR BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO...

DISGUISE? WHY IS IT NECESSARY FOR YOU TO DO SO?

MINOR BUSINESS? DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY WITH WOMEN AGAIN?

ERRR... THAT, WELL...

Oh, my, my! Aren't you the boy from before!!

On board: Transvestite Club Candy

YOU GUYS ARE FROM THE TRANS-VESTITE CLUB...!!

So you're cosplaying in a gakuran this time! How cute~! ♥

So you're together with your friend today! ♥

A- ARE THEY YOUR FRIENDS, SHIRO-KUN?

N- NO! I JUST HAPPENED TO DEVELOP A CON-NECTION WITH THEM IN THE PAST...!!

Yes, yes! We DID develop a con-nection...

Gakuran: a type of Japanese school uniforms

with him in a nurse uniform...

Yummy.

Oh, that was great.

AHHN

WHA-- I WASN'T REFERR-ING TO *THAT* KIND OF "CON-NECTION"! SO NO MORE, PLEASE!!!

WOOOH

SFX: WHOOSH

GYAAAA!!!

AW-RIGHT!!! I GOT 'EM!!

YOU STILL HAVE THE SAME *HULK* STRE-NGTH!!

Come on!

N- NO! I'M GOO-

CLENCH

Since the two of you have come all the way here, why not visit our club?

Just remove this gakuran!

AH!

YANK

Yup, he's right!

We have lots of better costumes for you!

Oh, boy! You're a cutie like always!

NO!

AH!

RIP

I BEG YOU!

PLEA-SE, SPA-RE ME!

PULL

Oh! He snatched him from us!

OFFI-CER!

YANK

E-ENOUGH! LET GO OF SHIRO-KUN!

SFX: STRIP

I'M LEAVING THE REST IN *YOUR* CARE!!

ALAS, I HAVE SOME-THING TO TAKE CARE OF NOW, SO...

I OWE YOU ONE, OFFI-CER!

!!?

rustle

EH?

MISTER ABS IS HEREE EEE!!!

MI-MI-MI-MIS-

GYA AAA!!

My tears...

PLEASE STOP OOOP

One buff man right in front of our eyee eees!!

He's a Gachiko Deluxe!

DAASH

GYAAAA!! Mr. Abs has graced us with his presence!!!

Gachiko = a name of a robot in Overman King Gainer anime

I AM NOT DEAAA AAD!!

UWOOOOH

-FAREWELL, KOJIRO. MAY YOUR ABS LAST FOR ETERNITY_!!-

FARE-WELL!

I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT GALLANT FIGURE OF YOURS, OFFICER ...!

RUN

The Legend of Kojiro
"The 101th Protein" — Fin

NOW, I'VE GOT TO HURRY.

RUN

Morizono-style Flower Arrangement Classroom

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR NEXT CLASS.

TAKE CARE.

TAKE CARE, SENSEI.

TSUTAE-SENSEI IS BEAUTIFUL AS AL-WAYS!

MEET-ING ALL OF YOU AGAIN.

I'M ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO...

YES! I REALLY WANT TO BE LIKE HER~

Head of Morizono-style Flower Arrangement School Morizono Tsutae

SHE'S PROBABLY 40, BUT SHE LOOKS MUCH YOUNGER THAN THAT.

giggle

giggle

AND SHE'S A BEAUTY TO BOOT!

I agree!

SHE DECORATES HER ROOM WITH MO-RIZONO-STYLE FLOWER ARRANGE-MENTS. .

WE CAN DREAM, BUT SHE'S THE HEADMASTER OF A RE-MARKABLE FLOWER ARRANGE-MENT SCHOOL...

YOUR CLASSES ARE ALWAYS POPULAR, MA'AM.

OH, HAGI-KO. THANK YOU.

...YOU'VE DONE A GREAT JOB, MA'AM. PLEASE, HAVE SOME TEA.

I'M JUST PASSING ON TRADITION.

BUILT BY THE GENE-RATIONS BEFORE ME.

PLEASE, IT'S ALL THANKS TO THE GOOD NAME OF MORIZONO SCHOOL.

...

BUT, YOU TRULY ARE CHARMING...

MY, YOU'RE SAYING THE SAME THING AGAIN.

NO! I MUST SAY IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR BEAUTY AND TALENTS!

What's with that... pause?

What...

...

WELL... TRULY ARE...

Did you want to say...

"Although your husband is having an affair"?

Hagiko.

Nah, who am I kidding...

It's clear that they're already gossiping about it...

...

My servants have begun to notice what's going on.

HAGIKO, I'M GOING FOR A WALK IN THE GARDEN FOR A BIT.

Y- YES, MA'AM!

"Ma'am,
you are truly
attractive...

...even if your husband
is cheating on you"

Her eyes
and smile
clearly told
me that...

And
her lips...

sneered
at me.

I know
because...

Hagiko's
eyes showed
me pity.

SNAP

...

.. Hagiko is a
kind servant.

And she has
always been

I
mustn't
think
like
that...

I
can't...!

Regardless of how kind a person is,

deep down in their heart

The thing is...

I know.

Especially when they are unrelated to that couple.

they think that a couple's quarrel is amusing.

I guess he's been dating her for the past four months.

My husband's lover seems to be... a daughter in a teahouse called "Ichimon".

TSU-TAE!

I learned of such details from rumors floating around, but...

I know of nothing else.

CLACK

CLACK

I...

WE'RE HUS-BAND AND WIFE.

BUT OF CO-URSE.

GOING FOR A WALK? MAY I JOIN YOU?

OH, EICHI-RO-SAN ...

won't ask this man, "You're cheating on me, right?"

I won't scold or pester my husband with questions...

LOOK, THEY'RE BLOOM-ING SO BEAUTI-FULLY.

Because if I do so...

I will look ugly.

My mother always taught me this when I was a kid.

LISTEN TSUTAE

YOU MUST ALWAYS BE BEAUTIFUL IN ORDER TO BE A DAUGHTER IN MORIZONO FAMILY

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS FLOWER ARRANGEMENT.

ALTHOUGH THE FEET ARE PIERCED WITH THIS NEEDLE-POINT HOLDER.

THE FLOWERS ARE BLOOMING WITH PRIDE.

was indeed loved deeply by my father.

I want to be like her.

DO YOU GET IT?

BEING BEAUTIFUL IS FOR YOUR OWN SAKE.

AND FOR THE SAKE OF BEING LOVED BY YOUR BELOVED HUSBAND.

My mother who taught me that...

!

HE SAYS HIS NAME IS YOSHI-WARA.

MA'AM, SOME-ONE IS HERE TO SEE YOU.

...Mother...

Do you think I can ever be like you...?

HOW ARE YOU, TSU-TAE-SAN.

I'D IN-VESTI-GATED THE MATTER THAT YOU MENTI-ONED TO ME ABOUT

WE BECAME FRIENDS RECENT-LY.

LET HIM IN. HE'S THE OWNER OF AN UM-BRELLA SHOP I VISIT FRE-QUENTLY.

clatter

SU-RE...

WOULD YOU, PLEA-SE?

A SE-CRET?

WOULD YOU DO ME A FAVOR AND KEEP THIS MATTER

I COULDN'T ASK ANY-ONE ELSE TO INVES-TIGATE THE BACK-GROUND OF MY HUSBAND'S LOVER...

OH... THANK YOU, SHIRO-SAN.

Shiro-san is strange...

I'M NOT TEASING YOU.

DON'T TEASE ME, SHIRO-SAN!

KYAA !!

I'D BE HAPPY TO IF IT'S FOR YOUR SAKE, TSUTAE-SAN.

KISS

I honestly despise men who act all familiar with women

and men who are vulgar and uneducated. However...

He's way younger than me, but...

he makes my heart throb.

He has this unique elegance and

charm hidden somewhere within him.

Shiro-san is different.

Even when he exposes his skin by messily wearing his kimono or approaches a woman.

His charm might also be the reason why I decided to ask him for help,

although our relationship before was merely that of a shop owner and a customer.

ALRIGHT. ABOUT THAT DAUGHTER OF THE TEA-HOUSE...

HER NAME IS TAKAGI KAHO.

...!!

20 years old younger than Eichiro-san...

I SEE ...

FROM MY OBSERVATION, SHE APPEARS TO BE EITHER 17 OR 18 YEARS OLD.

Your husband was a regular at the teahouse.

Before long, Takagi Kaho fell for him and confessed her feelings.

...THEN, HOW DID IT ALL START BETWEEN MY HUSBAND AND THAT WOMAN?

HMM... WELL... IT'S THE SAME OLD STORY.

I HAVE NO FATHER... AND MY MOTHER HAS A WEAK BODY...

I HAVE ALWAYS LED A HARD LIFE EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD.

I'M JUST THE SECOND DAUGHTER IN THE FAMILY, IT'S FINE!

PLEASE, LET ME BE BY YOUR SIDE!!

N-NO! THAT WILL PUT ME IN TROUBLE! I HAVE A WIFE!

...

PLEASE, THINK IT OVER!

BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME I HAVE REALIZED HOW GLAD I AM TO BE ALIVE BECAUSE I LOVE YOU!!

GASP

...

T-THEN, THAT WOMAN WAS THE ONE WHO TEMPTED MY HUSBAND, RIGHT!?

ANY MAN WOULD FALL INSTANTLY AFTER HEARING SUCH A CONFESSION...

clatter

TSU-TAE-SAN...

O- OF COURSE... WHETHER TO GIVE IN TO THAT TEMPTA-TION OR NOT IS IN THE HANDS OF THE TEMPTED ...

DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULDN'T BE SO FIXATED ON YOUR HUSBAND NOW?

YOU ARE ATTRACTIVE.

B-BUT I CAN'T ... I CAN'T DO SUCH A THING, SHIRO-SAN!

EH...!

IF YOU WANT TO REMARRY, YOU CAN FIND MANY MEN WHO DREAM OF BECOMING YOUR PARTNER.

YOU'RE A BEAU-TIFUL, TA-LEN-TED LADY FROM A FAMOUS FLOWER ARRAN-GEMENT FAMILY.

EH ...!?

EH !? AH

WHY DON'T YOU TRY MAK NG ME YOUR LOVER...?

SHI...

SHI-RO-SAN... !!

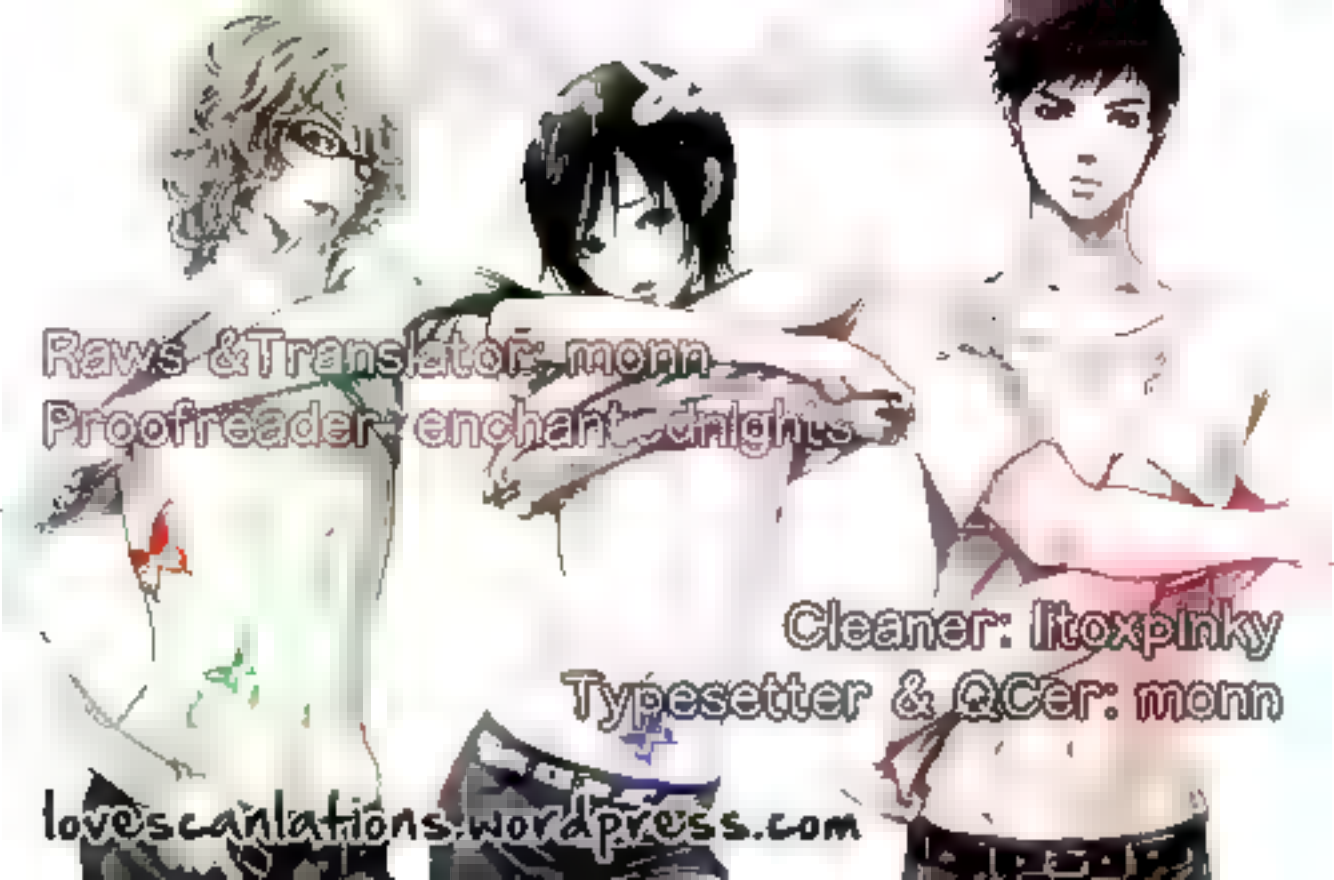
lift

FOR START-ERS...

HOW ABO-UT...

ME?

touch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PAWR

The eighteenth story

THE LIVING FLOWER Part 2

TSU-TAE-SAN ...

WHAT DO YOU THINK ?

...I- I KNEW IT! I CAN'T, SHIRO-SAN!

I'M STILL IN LOVE WITH MY HUS-BAND.

...IS THAT SO?

THINGS MAY BE BAD BETWEEN US RIGHT NOW, BUT MY HUS-BAND AND I TIED THE KNOT BECAUSE OF OUR DEEP LOVE...!!

...on my way home from the hospital.

stagger stagger

I MET HIM WHEN I WAS A YOUNG GIRL...

...

I'D LOVE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT YOUR LOVE STORY, TSUTAE-SAN.

wobble

AH...

bump

!!

Stagger

Stagger

At that time, I had been suffering from an illness for years. Thanks to that, I had a weak body.

..It was like a story from some cheap romance novel,

but that was now I met Eiichiro-san for the first time.

..ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

Eiichiro-san was there on the same road, waiting for me.

Several days later...

And the day ended just like that.

bOW

bOW

I'M SORRY FOR GETTING IN YOUR WAY

I'M ALL RIGHT, NOW! I JUST GOT DIZZY FOR A MOMENT THERE.

PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME!

UH... UM...

U- UM... I WAS THINKING THAT I COULD SEE YOU AGAIN IF I VISITED THIS ROAD...

OH, ??

IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT THE MOMENT I SAW THAT INNOCENT GLINT IN YOUR EYES.

WHEN I MET YOU THE OTHER DAY...

EEEH!?

I WILL SUPPORT YOU!! IF YOU LET ME DO SO I'M SURE YOUR ILLNESS WILL BE CURED!

WE CAN GET TO KNOW ONE AN-OTHER!' AND THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR ILL-NESS!'

AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, I HAVE AN ILL-NESS.

B-BUT' I DON'T THINK IT WILL WORK OUT! WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT EACH OTHER...

At that very moment, I was struck by his sincerity

...

After that...

CER-TAIN-LY!

WELL, LET'S START WITH BEING FRI-ENDS

That was the first time a man had shown me kindness. It made my heart flutter.

I mean, I was thin and pale— I had no confi-dence as a wo-man at all.

I fell completely in love with him...

and decided to marry him.

And so he was adopted into my family.

He would gently look after me and my needs.

..he would visit me every day.

I CAME TO VISIT YOU AGAIN TODAY, TSUTAE-SAN

But because I had nea.ed.

THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU DE-VOTEDLY TOOK CARE OF ME!

Yippee!

YES!! CONG-RATS, TSUTAE!!

WE MADE IT, EICHIRO-SAN! THE DOCTOR TOLD ME THAT I'M FULLY HEALED !!

And then miracle happened.

The pressure put on me as the current head of Morizono flower arrangement school became heavier

TO GIVE YOUR ALL FOR FLOWER ARRAN-GEMENT.

TSUTAE-SAN, YOU TOO ARE EXPECTED

MORIZONO-SAN! YOUR RECENT ACHIEVE-MENTS ARE IMPRES-SIVE!

Soon, whenever I went out with my hus-band...

and gradu-ally gained fame.

So I did my best in flower arrange-ment...

THEY SAY YOUR ROOM IS LIKE A GARDEN

I HEAR WORDS ABOUT YOU EVERY-WHERE.

left behind

MA'AM

MA-DAM

I tried to make time for us to be together whenever possible.

That's why I devoted myself to my husband even more.

was hurt as my fame rose.

It seems like my husband's pride as a man

...

ACTUALLY, I'M WILLING TO GIVE UP FLOWER ARRANGEMENT IF IT'S FOR MY HUSBAND'S SAKE.

BUT... MORIZONO SCHOOL HAS LASTED FOR GENERATIONS. I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S WISE OF ME TO END IT JUST BECAUSE OF MY OWN FEELINGS.

I'M SURE THAT LED TO HIS CURRENT LOVE AFFAIR.

Yet, for some reason, my husband's smile is no longer...

as cheerful as it was in the past.

sob sob

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

NOT TO MEN-TION THE TERRIBLE FACT THAT WE HAVE NO KIDS...

TSU-TAE-SAN...

I UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT PLEASE, CALMLY RECONSIDER YOUR VIEW ABOUT YOUR HUSBAND.

SH RO-SAN...

SHROOO

...The next day

T- THEY CAUGHT ME AFTER THAT AND...

THEY DID THIS...

AND THAT TO ME...

OFFICER, YOU'RE GETTING OUT OF CHARAC-TER...

YOU HAVE *NO* IDEA WHAT I WENT THROUGH AFTER YOU LEFT ME, DO YOU!!

THANKS FOR YES-TERDAY, YOU JERK!

WOOOK

Dog ears

Masochist

THEY MADE ME WEAR A TON OF EMBAR-RASSING COSTU-MES!!

Frilly apron

China dress

I COULD CARE LESS ABOUT YOUR FUTURE WIFE PROBLEM. I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LADY I MET YES-TERDAY.

SCOFF

AAAAAAH

IF THE INCI-DENT GETS PUBLIC, NO GIRL WILL WANT TO BE MY WIFEE-EEE!!

I THINK SHE'S LIKE A RAGING FIRE ON THE INSIDE.

SHE'S CALM ON THE SUR-FACE, BUT...

COUGH

OW!! IT HURTS!! WELL, I CAN'T HELP IT! I'M *WOR-RIED!!*

SQUEEZE

SO YOUR "MINOR BUSI-NESS" WAS INDEED RELATED TO WO-MEN! BAS-TARD!!

IF THINGS KEEP ON GOING AT THIS RATE, I PREDICT SOMETHING TERRIBLE WILL HAPPEN.

MY INTUITION TELLS ME SHE HAS STRONG EMOTIONS. AND IT'S LIKELY FOR HER TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A GOA...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "LIKE A RAGING FIRE"?

SHE TALKED TO ME ABOUT HER PERSONAL LIFE AND I GOT A BAD FEELING...

BOO HA!

BAKOON

WHAT ARE YOU LAZING AROUND FOR!! MORON!!

YOU... THINK SO...?

S- SENIOR POLICE OFFICER...!! ...AND, SAOTOME-SAN...

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING IN THE MIDDLE OF DUTY!?

After a while...

Arm: grown with my left hand.

H-HEY!! SHIRO-KUN!!

THE DETAILS ARE...

He wore apron china dress.

BUFF MEN COS ...?

COSPLAY. HE WAS IN A COSPLAY FESTIVAL FOR BUFF MEN.

B-BUT HEAR ME OUT! BECAUSE OF THIS MAN I HAD TO CO... CO... CO...!!

HARI-KUN, THAT'S ENOUGH. AND YOU, BOY, STOP ENJOYING SPOUTING AWFULLY SADISTIC WORDS.

MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY. THE INTENSITY OF *DISGUST* HE CAUSED MUST BE EQUAL TO BERMUDA TRIANGLE'S DANGER LEVEL.

I DON'T GET WHAT'S SO *FUN* ABOUT IT.

BUT LOOKING AT HIM IN THOSE COSTUMES MUST BE *DISGUST-ING*.

IT S.

I SEE... IT'S INDEED EMBAR-RASSING ...

GYAAAAA

sigh

I SEE ...

IS THAT REALLY HOW IT WORKS?

IF THERE ARE PEOPLE THAT YOU INTUITIVELY LIKE, THERE MUST BE THOSE THAT YOU INTU-ITIVELY HATE AS WELL.

LIKING OR HATING CERTAIN COSTUMES WORN BY CERTAIN PEOPLE IS A MATTER OF PRE-FERENCE.

WE..., PUTTING KOJIRO-KUN'S COSPLAY ACT ASIDE,

On board: Ichimon Teahouse

一文茶屋

一文茶屋

"PRE-FEREN-CE", HUH...

...in front of Takagi Kaho's teahouse...!!

Here I am...

KAHO-CHAAAN!

!!

what my hus-band's lover looks like...

It should be fine since I just came here to see

But still..

I know I shouldn't be doing something like this...

THANKS FOR COMING, MI-CHAN!

So that girl is Takagi Kaho!!

How could Eiichiro-san shamelessly develop a relationship with a girl like her ?

...Isn't she just a brat?

giggle

giggle

Such a shallow conversation!!

She's clearly not smart nor educated.

HE'S A REALLY FINE MAN~

REALLY? I'D LOVE TO HAVE THE COLOR WORN BY THAT KABUKI ACTOR, NAMISUKE-SAMA.

THE SAKURADO LIPSTICK BRAND S EXCELLENT! IT'S IN A COLOR THAT MEN LIKE.

Well, YES, she is cute

but...

Kyahaha

A-ha... She must be what the society calls

What's with that body, though?

Her breasts and hips are so full they're almost vulgar.

look at that cheap kimono!

And... I did hear that she's from a tiny tea house, but...

"a woman that attracts men".

Those women's only good points are their youth and astonishing beauty

and choose to marry uneducated women of a lowly family instead.

Many times, men of good social standing disregard respectable women

Now I realize...

Oh...

She must be one of those women

SO KAHO, HOW IS HE DOING LATELY?

I will never accept the fact I was defeated by her!

and I intuitively loathe them

that I envy girls like her

HE HELPS A LOT, REALLY.

SO HE EVEN SUPPORTS ME FINANCIALLY!

HE KNOWS THE TEAHOUSE IS HAVING A HARD TIME...

WE FALL DEEPER IN LOVE EACH DAY.

HM? YOU MEAN EICHIRO-SAN?

Oh, that man...!! He even gave her money!?

BUT, I DON'T CARE ABOUT MONEY. I LOVE HIM.

HE SAYS THAT HE LOVES ME *THE MOST*, TOO.

JOLT

REALLY~!? EVEN MORE THAN HE LOVES HIS WIFE!?

YEAH... I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT HE OFTEN SAYS...

"EVEN IF I'M WITH MY WIFE,

I DON'T FEEL AT EASE".

YOU KNOW, I'VE NEVER MET HIS WIFE BEFORE, BUT...

SHE'S A FAMOUS FLOWER ARRAN-GEMENT TEACHER RIGHT?

I ALSO HEARD THAT SHE'S A VERY ORGANIZED PERSON.

THEY TEND TO LOOK DOWN ON OTHERS. SO SICKEN-ING.

MOST OF OVER-CONFIDENT OLD LA-DIES LIKE HER HAVE HIGH PRIDE.

Wh- What did she just say!!?

Oh~ THAT MAY BE THE CASE.

MAYBE... BE NG WITH SOMEONE LIKE HER IS TIRING FROM A MAN'S POINT OF VIEW...

GLENCH

PISSED

THEY SHOULD KNOW THAT AS "WOMEN", THEY ARE ***RUSTY*** AND ***OUTDATED.***

Ahaha pity those old ladies!

THAT'S DEEP ...!!

WHY DON'T YOU JUST SNATCH HIM AWAY!?

THAT'S WHY I FEEL LIKE I HAVE TO PROTECT HIS HEART.

HE SEEMS TO BE IN PAIN WHEN-EVER HE'S WITH HIS WIFE.

...I don't think so!!

YOU THINK SO~~~~?

HE'S NOT N LOVE WITH HIS WIFE ANYMORE RIGHT? YOU SHOULD TAKE HIM AWAY!

WHAT!?

between a couple after they're married for many years.

A souring relationship is a common experience

I love my husband.

SNATCH-ING H.M AWAY.

TRUTH IS, I TOO HAVE BEEN THINK-ING OF

YOU'RE RIGHT...

But because you got between us, it's difficult for us to mend our relationship!!

THE MAN I LOVE JUST HAPPENS TO HAVE A WIFE, THAT'S A.L...

I FEEL LIKE THE LOVE I'M FEELING NOW IS SO PURE.

EXCUSE ME...

tremble tremble

BUT STILL HE LOVES ME.

MORE THAN HE DOES HIS WIFE.

COULD YOU SHOW ME WHERE THE RESTROOM IS?

OH, YES.

IT'S OVER THERE.

PLEASE, PROCEED INSIDE.

pull

MYS--

WELL THEN, I'LL EX-CUSE

turn

HEY.

SO, DOES "SNATCHING AWAY OTHER PEOPLE'S HUSBANDS" EQUAL "PURE LOVE" TO YOU GIRLS?

THE TENSION OF HAVING COMMITTED A TABOO GIVES YOU BOTH A FEELING OF ENJOY-MENT.

...

IS THAT NOT WHAT YOUR "LOVE" IS?

"THE MAN I LOVE JUST HAPPENS TO HAVE A WIFE, THAT'S ALL", YOU SAID?

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.

ARE YOU A HORNY MONKEY?

PEOPLE WOULD GIVE UP THE MOMENT THEY KNOW THEIR LOVE INTEREST IS MARRIED.

BUT YOU STILL DARINGLY SEDUCED MY HUS-BAND.

YOUR SELF-JUSTIFI-CATION IS TOO MUCH!

bite

I AM.

ARE YOU...

EICHIRO-SAN'S WIFE...?

AFTER ALL,

LOVING SOMEONE IS NOT A CRIME.

...I DON'T THINK I'VE DONE SOMETHING WRONG.

BUT I'M NOT LIKE YOU!!

I'M SURE HE DOESN'T RECEIVE ENOUGH LOVE FROM YOU.

I THINK YOU'RE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR LETTING HIM CHEAT ON YOU.

EX-CUSE ME!?

MY LOVE IS STRONG AND REAL!

I'LL DO ANYTHING TO OVERCOME EVERY ORDEAL WITH HIM...

HM? DOES IT?

"SEDU-CING HIM FROM HIS WIFE"?

DOES "I'LL DO ANY-THING" TRANS-LATE TO

I'VE LOVED ONLY HIM EVEN BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.

MY LOVE IS NOT ENOUGH? WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Aha ha

DON'T YOU MAKE LIGHT OF IT!!

DISREGARDING YOUR SUR-ROUNDINGS AS LONG AS YOU ALONE ARE HAPPY--IS IT WHAT "TRUE LOVE" IS TO YOU!?

WOOSH

!!!

shove

AW ...!!

WHAT IF YOU WERE ME...

YOU GOT MARRIED, GREW OLDER, AND HAD YOUR HUSBAND STOLEN BY A YOUNG GIRL...

WOULD YOU STILL BE ABLE TO...

SAY TO THE YOUNG GIRL, "YOUR LOVE IS TRUE INDEED"!?

WOBBLE

UGH...

slip

BAM

!?
E-E-ICHI-RO-SAN ...!!
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...!!
TSU-TAE!!
AH...
drip
UGH ...

DASH
KA-HO!!
WHAT HAPPENED! KAHO!!

!!
E- E-ICHIRO-SAN, YOU TOO... WHY ARE YOU IN THIS GIRL'S HOUSE...!?

E-CHI-RO-SAN ...

HELP ME...

I WAS ALMOST KILLED... BY THAT WOMAN...

I...

KA-HO!!

YOU'RE B-EED-ING!

I DIDN'T MEAN IT FOR HER TO COL-LAPSE AND GET HIT IN THE HEAD WITH A ROCK!!

I DID SHOVE HER HEAD TO THE WALL, BUT

I HEARD LOUD VOICES THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE. BUT TO THINK THAT YOU...!!

N-NO!

...TSU-TAE, DID YOU DO THIS!?

WHAT YOU DID WAS NOT NOR-MAL.

YOU'VE GONE OVER-BOARD, TSUTAE.

E-EICHI-RO-SAN!

TSUTAE... I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU WERE SUCH A FRIGHT-EN NG WOMAN...

KA-HO...!!

I'M SCA-RED!

SHE'S LYING!

SHE DID IT SO THAT MY HEAD WOULD HIT THE ROCK!

LOOKS LIKE THINGS HAVE TURNED VIOLENT.

This is not what I want!!

I DIDN'T DO IT ON PURPOSE!!

No!!

YOU'RE WRONG!

SHIRO-SAN ...!!

clack

...AND YOU ARE?

I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I, TSUTAE-SAN?

THAT YOU SHOULD GIVE UP A HUSBAND WHO TRUSTS HIS LOVER MORE THAN HE TRUSTS YOU.

Smirk

Whisper

...JUST BE QUIET.

SHI-SHI RO-SA--

Unn

GASP

HUH!?

ME? I'M TSUTAE-SAN'S LOVER.

TSUTAE-SAN CAME TO ME CONSULTING ABOUT YOU...

SO I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HER LONELINESS.

THAT'S TRUE. BUT YOU MADE HER CAPABLE OF DOING IT.

YOU'RE LYING!!

TSUTAE ISN'T A WOMAN WHO CAN DO SOME-THING LIKE CHEAT-ING!!

Sneer

...TSUTAE-SAN IS SATISFIED WITH ME.

AN EARNEST PERSON LIKE HER IS TOO GOOD FOR YOU.

NON-SENSE!! YOU'RE JUST A BOY!!

I'M VERY SKILLED AT PLAY-ING WITH A WOMAN'S BODY.

I MAY LOOK LIKE THIS, BUT

WHAM

WHOOSH

WH-

YO-

BAS-TARD!

YOU HIT YOUR SPOUSE'S LOVER TOO, DON'T YOU?

clench

...YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.

THE MISERY THAT TSUTAE-SAN IS GOING THROUGH?

WERE YOU ABLE TO UNDER-STAND...

TSUTAE-SAN'S AFFAIR WITH ME IS A LIE.

shock

SFX: THUD

!?

TSU-TAE-SAN!!

stagger

STOP IT, EICHI-RO-SAN! IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

DON'T BLAME SHIRO ...

SAN...

S-SAY WHAT ...!?

MY WIFE'S HEART HAS ALWAYS BEEN WEAK. IT MUST'VE BEEN CARRYING TOO MUCH PRESSURE!

WHAT !?

OH NO, SHE COL-LAPSED FROM A SEI-ZURE!

.....

lift

I'LL BRING HER TO THE NEAREST HOSPITAL!

I- I'M GOING TOO!!

IT'S BECAUSE... I BETRAYED HER!

MY FAULT !!

IT'S BECAUSE I SHOCKED HER...!

NO.

... WHAT THE HELL...

run

TSUTAE!! DON'T GIVE UP!

WELL...

Two days later ...

I'M SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED THIS TIME, TSUTAE

BUT AFTER THAT, MY HUSBAND SHOWED ME HIS WILLINGNESS TO CHANGE.

I'M SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE I CAUSED YOU THE OTHER DAY, SHIRO-SAN.

I'M GLAD YOUR SEIZURE WAS A LIGHT ONE...

I'LL BREAK UP WITH KAHO...

BECAUSE OF ME, YOUR HEALTH DETERIORATED AGAIN

HE SAID THOSE WORDS TO ME AND WE'RE GETTING ALONG FINE NOW.

IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, SHIRO-SAN.

WHEN SHIRO-KUN ANGERED ME AND YOU COLLAPSED.

I KNEW FOR SURE,

THAT YOU'RE THE ONE I TRULY LOVE

I WANT TO RECOVER THE BOND BETWEEN US AS A MARRIED COUPLE!

...I SEE...

RIGHT NOW

I FEEL VERY HAPPY.

A few days later...

I'M SORRY ... TSU-TAE...

EH!?

UH... WHEN I VISITED HER TO BREAK THINGS OFF,

SHE SAID SHE WAS PREG-NANT.

KAHO IS...

PREG-NANT..

APPA-RENTLY.

I'VE BEEN THINKING DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS...

NOW THAT IT'S COME TO THIS...

I THINK I SHOULD OFFICIALLY MAKE HER MY MISTRESS...

...!!

WE HAVE NO CHILDREN...

SHE MAY BE A MISTRESS, BUT HER CHILD IS STILL PRECIOUS.

I KNOW YOU MUST BE SHOCKED, BUT...

I HOPE YOU CAN THINK IT OVER FOR ME...!

THE CHILD IS FROM A DIFFERENT MOTHER, BUT I'M STILL THE FATHER!

...

IS THAT SO...

THAT'S RIGHT! MY BLOOD IS IN THAT CHILD!

NATU-RALLY, THAT CHILD IS YOURS AS WELL, BECAUSE YOU'RE MY WIFE.

...

MY... CHILD ...?

WOULD YOU PLEASE TRY TO

THINK OF THAT CHILD AS YOUR OWN?

relieved

...THANKS, TSUTAE!! I KNEW YOU'D UNDER-STAND!

YES ... I UNDER-STAND ...

How can that be possible...

I REALLY APPRE-CIATE YOUR KIND-NESS! THANK YOU!

YOU'RE SUCH A BENE-VOLENT WIFE!

I must stay beautiful.

Never.

I must not show my angry face.

till I'm all covered in blood.

You've hurt me countless times...

Are you not aware dear that my feet are bleeding

and he's that happy...

I forgave him for his affair with that

THEN...

WHERE WILL KAHO-SAN LIVE?

so that you may not despise me.

so that you may love me,

But I shall laugh flower

SHE'S PREGNANT, SO I WANT HER TO STAY IN A PLACE WHERE WE CAN PAY ATTENTION TO HER WELL-BEING.

A detached room, he says!?

He's going to let that woman live inside this mansion's premises!?

OH, I'M THINKING OF LETTING HER LIVE IN A ROOM DETACHED FROM OURS.

MY MISTRESS IS PREGNANT!

I PROMISE!

I WON'T NEGLECT YOU JUST BECAUSE

BUT, DON'T FRET!

...

I SEE...

...It's all over...

That man will dote on the baby with Kaho.

Are there any parents who won't love a child that they've been waiting for so long?

the future is as clear as day to me.

He might have said some nice words, but

It's over.

Before long, my dignity as the legal wife will disappear. That's just how the world works.

Kaho will be respected by the servants-- by everyone.

Everyone will find me despicable.

And I will grow older as I keep on hating Kaho and her child.

When the opportunity presents itself, that man will tell me..

to let Kaho's child be the successor to Morizono flower arrangement school.

That woman will steal

my husband and the Morizono school.

I don't want it to happen!!

I won't let it happen!!

I can't forgive her.

As if I can stay calm and watch everything I love be snatched away by a woman like her!!

and kill her...!!

...Yes. I just have to plan my timing..

and keep it a secret from my husband.

I can just kill her...

...That's right...

There she is, Takagi Kaho...!!

CHAPTER

CHAPTER

CHAPTER

CHAPTER

I should target her once she's alone after parting with that man...!!

...All right! She entered a back alley.

turn

twish

NOW!!

Now is my chance.

She's alone now!!

Good!!

!?

PASH

SLASH

KYHAAA

CLANG

run

NOOO

SH RO-SAN!?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!

PUT THAT KNIFE DOWN, TSUTAE-SAN!

IT'LL BE THE END OF *YOU* IF YOU INJURE KAHO-SAN!

YOU MUST NOT, TSU-TAE-SAN!!

TH S IS THE ONLY SOLU-TION!

...MOVE, SHIRO-SAN!! I'M GOING TO KILL HER!

I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU AT FIRST SIGHT.

...my husband...!?

PLEASE, *THINK* CAREFULLY ABOUT YOUR HUSBAND!

YOUR HEALTH DETERIORATED AGAIN.

HE SAYS HE LOVES ME THE MOST.

I WILL SUPPORT YOU!!

So that's how it is...

step

step

...TSUTAE-SAN!?

I see...

Wobble

rattle

JUMP

That's ■hat this is all about huh...

My dear.

飛焦...

clack clack

clack

TSU-
TAE-
SAN!!

TSU-
TAE-
SAN!!

clack

GHBOOM

TSU-TAE-SAN!!!

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Part 3

the eighteenth story
THE LIVING FLOWER

WHAT!?

TSUTAE ATTACKED YOU!? WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!!

YOUR WIFE. . SHE SWUNG A KNIFE AT ME YESTER-DAY

THOUGH, LUCKILY, THE WOUND ISN'T DEEP...

WAIT ...

SHE FELL FROM THE CLIFF ON HER OWN!!

IT WASN'T MY FAULT!!

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT!? WHAT HAPPEN-ED TO TSUTAE?

W-WHAT !?

...LET ME TELL YOU, IT WASN'T ME WHO MADE HER FALL.

RUSH

SHE'S IN THIS HOSPITAL, RIGHT!?

Y- YEAH ..

Suzuki Hospital

RUSH

I'M GOING TO SEE HER NOW!!

YOUR WIFE IS INSIDE. BUT... UM...

SLIDE

I'M MORIZONO!! YESTERDAY MY WIFE...

OH! SO YOU'RE HER HUS-BAND.

!!

SLIDE

TSU-TAE!!

BUT ...

ICHIRO SAN.
.....
THOSE LEGS ARE
... TSU- TAE

SHOCK

BOW

I ASKED SHIRO-SAN TO BRING ME THESE BRANCHES FROM OUR GARDEN. .

AND ATTACH THEM TO MY BODY.

I LOST MY LEGS.

FOR-GIVE ME, E-CHIRO-SAN.

S-SOME-ONE TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED!!

HOW COULD THIS BE.. !!

UH... UHH..

DRIP

THEY'RE MORE GORGEOUS THAN MY OLD LEGS, AREN'T THEY?

A PILE OF TRASH FELL AT THE SAME TIME...

AND LANDED ON HER LEGS...

AND THEN, SHE FELL FROM A SMALL CLIFF.

SHE WAS ATTACKING KAHO-SAN, WHEN SHE LOST HER CONSCI-OUSNESS.

TH-

HER LEGS HAD TO BE AMPUTATED IMMEDI-ATELY, SO SHE HAD A SUR-GERY.

WELL, DUH! THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU!

TSUTAE REALLY DID ATTACK KAHO...?

THEN, KAHO WAS TELL-ING THE TRUTH!?

THIS MUST BE A PUNISH-MENT... FROM HEAVEN ...

MY HEART HAS BEEN... BROKEN...

DEAR ..

I'M TERRI-BLY SORRY.

.....!

PLEASE, BE HAPPY WITH KAHO-SAN AND YOUR CHILD...

LET'S ...

DIVOR-CE..

I NEVER MEANT TO CAUSE YOU TROUBLE.

DRIP

I WAS THERE WITH TSUTAE-SAN BUT STILL, SHE LOST HER LEGS.

... THAT'S THE GIST OF IT.

Flower Tea House

FLOWER IN STOCK

YOU'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG.

WELL, NOBODY CAN STOP AN ACCI-DENT.

I SEE...

SHE HAS MY SYMPA-THY...

TSU-TAE-SAN FELL ON PURPOSE.

NO.

IT WAS NOT AN ACCI-DENT.

OFFI-CER...

WHEN THAT MAN SAW TSUTAE-SAN CRYING FROM HAVING LOST HER LEGS, HE...

BECAUSE SHE'D SEEN EICHIRO'S TRUE CHA-RACTER.

WHAT!?

SHE COULD'VE GRABBED MY HAND THEN, YET SHE DIDN'T.

LAUGH-
ED.

HUH!?

I'LL SUPPORT THE CHILD FINAN-CIALLY!

KAHO, I'M SORRY, BUT WE'RE BREAK-ING UP.

BUT DON'T WORRY! I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

TSUTAE, LOOK AT THE POOR STATE YOU'RE IN NOW...!!

EVEN HER HEART IS IN PAIN BECAUSE OF WHAT I'VE DONE.

MY WIFE CAN NO LONGER WALK BY HERSELF

...THAT'S WHAT I'D CALL SEXUAL PREFERENCE.

.....

I MUST PROTECT HER.

THAT'S WHY.

I...

I LEARNED ABOUT THAT MAN DURING MY INVESTI-GATION ON TAKAGI KAHO.

HUUUH? DON'T YOU FIND THEM TROUBLESOME?

NOT AT ALL.

PREFER WOMEN WHO NEED ME OVER THOSE WHO ARE INDEPENDENT.

TO SUPPORT A WOMAN'S HEART AND BODY.

YOU SEE, I FEEL MOST DELIGHTED WHEN I DEVOTE MYSELF...

THAT'S HIS NATURE.

THE MORE HIS WOMAN NEEDS TO BE TAKEN CARE OF, THE BETTER.

THAT MAN FINDS PLEASURE BY DOING SO.

YOU CAN FIND A VARIETY OF SEXUAL PREFERENCES IN THIS WORLD.

. .IT'S SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM IDIOSYNCRASY.

PREFERENCE.. OH, I REMEMBER. .

WE WERE TALKING ABOUT ME COSPLAYING, AND SAOTOME-SAN SAID THAT...

THERE TRULY ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE.

OTHERS IN BATHING.

SOME PEOPLE FIND PLEASURE IN FEEDING THE R PARTNERS.

...fell in love at first sight with an ill and skinny Tsutae-san.

YES. IT EXPLAINS WHY THAT MAN...

YEAH... I THINK I GET IT.

and so he felt pleasure from supporting her.

Kano-san, who called out to him casually, had a bleak and financially poor future.

his feelings for her started fading.

However, the moment Tsutae-san grew healthier and independent...

BUT AFTER THIS INCIDENT,

THAT MAN CAN LOOK AFTER SOMEONE FOREVER.

HE HAS FOUND THE BEST PARTNER HE COULD EVER ASK FOR.

THAT'S JUST !!

BECAUSE SHE LONGS FOR HER HUSBAND'S LOVE.

BUT I DOUBT TSUTAE-SAN WILL CHOOSE TO LIVE LIKE THEM.

MANY PEOPLE LIVE BY THEM-SELVES EVEN AFTER THEY'VE LOST THEIR LEGS.

BUT SHE WOULDN'T LISTEN.

BEFORE THINGS GOT WORSE...

I WANTED TSUTAE-SAN TO LEAVE THAT MAN ..

WHAT SHE PLACED WAS A VERY DANGER-OUS BET.

THE TRASH COULD HAVE FALLEN ON NOT ONLY HER LEGS

AS A RESULT, SHE PULLED DOWN A PILE OF TRASH AND JUMPED OFF THE CLIFF WITHOUT HESITATION.

AT THAT TIME, ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT..

I MADE TSUTAE-SAN REAL ZE WHAT HER HUSBAND'S PREFER-ENCE IS.

SHE'S WILLING TO BEAR AN INCURABLE WOUND...

IN ORDER TO BE LOVED BY HER HUSBAND.. FOREVER.

BUT STILL, SHE CHOSE THE PATH THAT COULD'VE GREATLY HARMED HER BODY.

YES. PERFECT

TSUTAE, SHOULD I PUT THE FLOWER HERE?

BESIDES, THIS FLOWER ARRANGEMENT IS A GRAND ONE.

DON'T BE! I *WANT* TO HELP!

YOU'RE EVEN HELPING ME WITH THE FLOWERS. I'M SO SORRY.

SIT

IS HERE OKAY?

YES.

THERE YOU GO.

SURE THING.

I WANT TO SEE THE WHOLE ARRAN-GEMENT

YES. MAY I ASK YOU TO HELP ME STAND?

OH. TSUTAE...

!

FROM HERE, YOU LOOK LIKE

THE CENTRAL PIECE OF AN ARRANGE-MENT.

YOU'RE BEAUTI-FUL, TSUTAE.

IT'S AS IF YOU'RE A VERY LARGE FLOWER.

MY ONE AND ONLY FLOWER.

FUFU...

THEY'RE DISTORTED.

BEING LOVED ONLY IF ONE HURTS ONE'S BODY -- THAT'S TWISTED.

'ES. YOU'RE RIGHT.

BITE

BUT FROM THE R PERS-PECTIVE

IT'S A SWEET, SWEET KIND OF DISTOR-TION...

WHAT!? WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT WAS A LIE! HOW COME YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT KAHO-SAN?

AND WHY WERE YOU WITH HER WHEN SHE WAS ATTACKED!!

...STILL, WHAT HAPPENED TO KAHO-SAN? SHE'S PREGNANT RIGHT?

OH... IT WAS JUST A LIE.

OH, THAT ..

EVEN AFTER TSUTAE-SAN SAID THAT THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN SOLVED, I WASN'T CONVINCED, SO...

I continued my investi-gation on Kaho-san...

HUH!? WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN, KAHO?!

AHAHA!

YOU'RE IN TROUBLE! SOON ENOUGH THEY'LL FIND OUT THAT YOU'RE LYING!!

AND HE TOLD ME HE'D MAKE ME HIS LEGAL MISTRESS BUT.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT.

I WOUND UP LYING ABOUT BEING PREG-NANT...

IT MEANS EXACTLY AS I SAID IT... WHEN EICHIRO-SAN STARTED TALKING ABOUT BREAKING UP..

YANK

AH!

LIES ONLY COMPLICATE MATTERS

LEARN YOUR LESSON AND QUIT GETTING YOURSELF INVOLVED IN ADULTERY.

Y-YOU'RE THE MAN... FROM THAT TIME!!

THEN GO, APOLO-GIZE, AND END THIS.

TEARY

Sniffle

.....

UHH...

LET'S TAKE A BREATHER OUTSIDE.

USING A LIE AS A LAST RESORT MEANS YOU'RE AWARE THAT YOU HAVE NO CHANCE OF WINNING, AM I WRONG?

.....!!

BUT I DIDN'T SEE ONE THING COMING ...

I SEE ...

I JUST HAPPENED TO BE WITH KAHO-SAN AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT.

SO, YEAH.

...to tell me so.

I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU!

Yesterday, Kaho-san visited my shop...

APPARENTLY, SHE SPENT DAYS SEARCHING FOR MY HOUSE ALL BY HERSELF.

OBVIOUSLY, SHE COULDN'T ASK TSUTAE-SAN ABOUT MY ADDRESS..

'ES. AND..

MAN... SHE WASTED NO TIME SWITCHING TO ANOTHER GUY...

'ES.

BUT THAT'S WHAT MAKES THEM ATTRACTIVE.

SIGH... HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS? A WOMAN'S PASSION SURE IS AMAZING...

I FEEL DEEPLY FOR BOTH TSUTAE-SAN AND KAHO-SAN...

THE BURNING PASSION OF HIS BELOVED WOMAN.

ANY MAN WOULD LOVE TO BE WARMED BY...

.....

...I KINDA GET WHAT YOU MEAN.

'ES.

ACTUALLY, ME TOO.

Ahaha

I'D RATHER WARM THAN BE WARMED.

BUT IF I MUST CHOOSE,

END

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FROM HERE ON IS THE EXTRA CHAPTER

WHOA, SHE'S A CUTIE!!

YEAH. SHE'LL BE IN THIS TROUPE LEADER'S MANSION WORKING AS A SERV...

step step

IS THAT GIRL A NEW EMPLO-YEE!?

BUFF

LWAAH, THIS ONE IS SO MY TYPE!!

smooch

...HEY. GIMME A BREAK ...

LOOK AT HOW FAST THAT BITCH MAKES HIS MOVE.

smooch

THAT BITCH KNOWS NO BOUNDA-RIES...

...HEY. GIMME A BREAK...

heave ho

IS THAT GUY A NEW EMPLO-YEE!?

YEAH, HE'S USEFUL, SO I TOOK HIM INTO MY TROOP AND..

SORRY TO MAKE YOU STAY WHILE I WAS AWAY FOR INVESTI-GATION.

I'M BACK!

UME-NOSU-KE!!

!

step

ANRI-SAN IS AS POPULAR AS USUAL, HUH.

WHAT'D YOU SAY!?

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A GREAT HELP. YOU SEE, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE DECENT AMONG ANRI'S SUB-ORDINATES.

HORN

?

THAT'S TRUE.

I'M SURE HE HARDLY HAS ANY LOVE PROBLEMS.

BUT REALLY, ANRI-SAN MUST BE A LOVE VETERAN.

IT SEEMS LIKE THEY BROUGHT IN SOME SORT OF A RARE ANIMAL FROM THE MAINLAND.

AHH, HAVEN'T YOU HEARD ABOUT IT?

HORN

HORN

...?

WHAT'S WITH THE PROCESSION?

WHATEVER, I DON'T CARE.

HUH?

HEY ANRI, YOU SHOULD TAKE A LOOK TOO.

OH, IS IT THAT THING OVER THERE?

THAT IS INDEED RARE.

CLANK

CLANK

CLANK

!!!

I DON'T CA...

I TOLD YOU ...

JUST TAKE A LOOK.

OH...

YOU WANTED A CLOSER LOOK, RIGHT?

AS REQUEST-ED ANR., I'VE BROUGHT IT HERE.

An hour later ...

AAAAA

YEAH...

WEL...

glance

UM...

yelling ground

WOW~ THE WAY IT BEHA-VES IS SO CUTE!

!!!

.....

IT SEEMS LIKE THIS IS AN ANIMAL KNOWN AS 'PANDA' THIS ONE IS A MALE.

STARTLED

twitch

...DO YOU LIKE IT?

TESTU... JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE AN EXPLOSIVE SPECIALIST DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD GO BLOW EVERY-THING UP.

AND IT'S HUGE...

IF I BLOW IT UP...

The next day

THOSE PATTERNS COINCIDENTALLY SUIT HUMAN'S LIKING, THAT'S WHY I GOT A LITTLE TOO EXCITED!!

IF THE PATTERNS WERE LIKE THIS, WOULDN'T YOU THINK TWICE BEFORE LIKING IT!?

↑ patterns

I like these patterns too though!

WELL, YOU'VE GOT A POINT.

N-NOT REALLY!? IT'S JUST A BEAR WITH PATTERNS ON IT!

IT'S RIDI-CULO-US!

SIGH

fidget

fidget

THAT GUY IS UNEXPECTEDLY A TSUNDERE!!

shy

fidget

WHY DOES HE HAVE BAMBOOS WITH HIM.

HIS OUTFIT SOMEHOW LOOKS LIKE A PANDA! IS HE TRYING TO MAKE THE PANDA FEEL AN AFFINITY WITH HIM!?

I'll go out for a bit!

Bamboos eh!?

AFTER DIGGING UP DOCUMENTS ABOUT PANDAS FOR THE WHOLE NIGHT YESTERDAY, HE HEADED OUTSIDE...

...I GUESS IT'S SOMETHING PANDAS LIKE.

Liar!! You were searching for it in the middle of the night!

eye bags

IT JUST HAPPENED TO BE AROUND... THERE...

PASS

ERM.. IF YOU DON'T MIND, THIS...

IT'S PROBABLY STILL VERY CAUTIOUS, HUH.

LET ME BLOW IT UP...!

THE FEED-ING FAIL-ED!!

AH!

WHOOSH

The next day

FINE! SEE IF I CARE!!

-THE HELL! YOU'RE NOT CUTE AT ALL!!

OH, HE'S FINALLY BACK TO NORMAL.

fidget

IT WORSEN-ED!!!

fidget

...UM, THE TRIBUTE ITEMS POWERED UP, BUT WHAT THE HELL IS THAT GUY DOING...

fidget

chy

HONEX

munch munch

grab

!!

I-I MIGHT HAVE SAID A BIT TOO MUCH YESTER-DAY..

AND UH...

THE WAY IT EATS IS *SUPER* CUTE!!

IT ATE THE BAM-BOO!

NO! THAT IDIOT'S PLANNING ON TOUCH-ING HIM!!

ba-dump ba-dump

reach

twitch

Cu-

BUT THAT THING OVER THERE IS SUPER DISGUST-ING!

Awww

Cute!

twitch

thump thump

--THE HELL, YOU JERK! TRY H TTING ME HARDER!!

IS IT BAD!?

PANDAS ARE APPARENTLY FEROCIOUS REGARDLESS OF THEIR APPEAR-ANCE!!

THAT GUY IS ALSO *BAD*-- IN A DIFFERENT SENSE!!

STIFF

OOH! TOUCHING IT WAS A *BAD* IDEA AFTER ALL!

NO! THAT *BRAIN* OF YOURS IS NOT FINE AT ALL!!

I'M FINE!! THINGS ARE GETTING GOOD NOW, SO DON'T INTERFERE!!

dash

ANRI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

GWAGH

IDIOT!! NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF AN "M" (MASOCHIST) YOU ARE, IF YOU KEEP GETTING HIT LIKE THAT YOU'LL DIE!!

pull pull

NO!! I WANNA STAY BY PANDA'S SIDE!!

ANRI-SAN, STAY AWAY FROM THE PANDA ALREADY.

IT'S ALRIGHT! I'M REALLY OPEN-MINDED!

AND I DON'T GET PISSED OFF EASILY!!

BUT ANRI, I HEARD THAT GUY OVER THERE IS ESPECIALLY HOSTILE EVEN AMONG OTHER PANDAS.

I SEE... BY THE WAY, IT SEEMS LIKE THAT THING'S NAME IS 'MON MON'.

"M"...

TRUST THE "M" IN ME!!

I WON'T DIE JUST FROM GETTING HIT BY A PANDA!

Even if you say so, we can't..!!

Look, this bastard is already pissed off!!

ENRAGED

YOU IDIOT!! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME EARLIER IF YOU KNEW ITS NAME!!!

Daily Images

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING ANRI-SAN WORK SO HARD IN A LOVE RELATION-SHIP(?)...

I WONDER IF IT'S TOO QUICK TO CALL HIM 'MON-KUN'... YUP, I SHOULD START WITH 'MON-SAN' FIRST...

YEAH. THIS SINGLE-MINDED PART OF HIM IS SURPRISINGLY, GENUINELY GROSS...

After that

BAM

Crash

Strike

HONEY

Eek!

...finally came to the point where he became the panda's chair!!

Anri who was trying hard...

A few days later

U... UHM!

EHM

SO HE WANTS TO MAKE IT HIS PET HUH...

TO HAVE SOMETHING THAT HUGE AS A PET IS QUITE A REMARK-ABLE THING TO DO.

fidget

fidget

OH, IT LOOKS LIKE ANRI WILL FINALLY MAKE THAT PANDA HIS TODAY.

It turned out to be something MUCH more remarkable than we thought!!!

holds out

PLEASE, WITH MARRIAGE IN MIND, MAKE ME YOUR PET!

W-WHAT IS IT TO YOU GUYS!?

MORE LIKE, WITH *WHAT* IN MIND!? IT'S A PANDA FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

run

WHAT WILL YOU DO AFTER BECOMING ITS PET!?

DON'T BE TOO HASTY, ANRI!!

WE DON'T WANNA HEAR SUCH INFOR-MATION!

I SAID IT'S FINE!! I KNOW TONS OF VARIATIONS AND THERE ARE LOTS OF DIFFERENT THINGS I CAN DO WHEN IT COMES TO *THAT*!!

IF YOU SLEEP WITH SOMETHING THAT HUGE YOU'LL DIE!!

BUT WHY DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT!?

THAT'S NOT THE PRO-BLEM!!

INDEED, ANRI CAN DO A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS.

YEAH.

SH... SHINZO... THAT'S A CRIME CALLED PEEKING ..

NO, IT'S PURE OBSER-VATION.

AFTER ALL, IT COULD BE AN ASSASSIN SENT IN BY THE ENEMY

I AL-WAYS OB-SERVE THE SITU-ATION.

WHEN ANRI BRINGS SOME-ONE INTO HIS BED-ROOM...

NO-- I MEAN, NORMALLY... GIRLS ARE...

WHAT ABOUT THE GIRLS?

I MEAN, ANRI-SAN AND THE GIRLS WOULD BE DOING... *THAT*, RIGHT?

It's another thing when he sleeps with a man.

shrug

AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

...BUT, WOW, YOU CAN ACTUALLY WATCH IT NONCHA-LANTLY ..

EX-CUSE ME...

ANYWAY, HAVING A PANDA FOR A PART-NER IS...

F-FORGET IT!

BLUSH

ARE YOU DIFFER-ENT?

NO MATTER HOW MUCH FOOLISHNESS THE LOWLY GIRLS EXPOSE, I WON'T BE AFFECTED BUT...

...EH?

SORRY, BUT IT TURNS OUT THAT WE'LL HAVE TO RETURN THE PANDA TO ITS HOMECOUNTRY SOON.

AFTER ALL, THAT THING LIKES FEMALE--BE IT A HUMAN OR AN ANI-MAL...

THEY SAID THAT THE PANDA'S WIFE AND CHILD ARE BACK IN ITS HOME COUNTRY...

disappointed

I don't wanna, I don't wannaaa!!

YEAH... ANRI-SAN RESISTED WITH ALL HIS MIGHT.

WELL... TO THINK THAT THE PANDA WAS ONLY RENTED...

On board: Umbrella Shop

I WONDER IF ANRI-SAN IS GOING TO BE AL-RIGHT...

DON'T WORRY. AT TIMES LIKE THIS, ANRI HAS A FIXED PERSON TO LEAN ON.

clunck

HELLO?

IS IT NIIYA?

WAAAA

SHI-ROO OO!!

U-

WHAT DO YOU WANT THIS TI..

REALLY CALMS ME DOWN...

AHH-- AS I THOUGHT, YOUR VOICE...

SINCE THE OLD DAYS, WHEN-EVER YOU GET DUMPED YOU ALWAYS COME WHIM-PERING, IT'S ANNOY-ING!

I'M HANG-ING UP.

EH, H-HOW DID YOU KNOW!!

...NIIYA ...YOUR TONE OF VOICE MEANS... YOU GOT DUMPED, RIGHT?

YOU'RE ALREADY CRYING.

AAAA

WHY ARE YOU ABAN-DONING NIIYA!? IF YOU HANG UP I'LL CRY!!

sigh

AND SPEAK A LITTLE LOUDER!!

CAN'T YOU COMFORT ME FOR A LITTLE!?

NIIYA.

WHA-

MY POOR, POOR NIIYA...

IT MUST'VE HURT RIGHT?

...SH-RO...

IT SERVES YOU RIGHT.

NOW GET LOST.

SHIRO OOOO

tuu tuu

Slam!

THE FACT THAT HIS HALF-HEARTED VOICE SOUNDED THAT GOOD JUST NOW PISSES ME OFF...!!

I could even see him in front of me!

T-THAT BAS-TARD ...!!

I FI-NALLY GOT RID OF HIM!

HMPH!

IT ALL FELT FAMILIAR...

AND HIS REBELLIOUSNESS...

HIS APPEARANCE WAS REALLY CUTE, BUT HIS FEROCIOUSNESS, HIS MERCILESSNESS...

EVEN THOUGH I LIKED MON-SAN SOOOO MUCH...

Mon-san, he... slightly...

Ah, so that's how it is.

FAMILIAR?

.....

...resembles that guy.

END

The nineteenth story

WHEN I PEEK INTO HIS DEPTHS

1 Part

WHISH

LOOK, SHIN-ZO!

I'VE COMP-LETED IT AT LAST!

COPYING AND IMPROVING ARE EASY TASKS! THE REAL GENIUS IS THE ONE WHO ORIGINALLY BUILT THIS.

OTHER MEN IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD HAVE MADE THIS BEFORE I DID

YOU REALLY ARE SOMETHING .I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D ACTUALLY FINISH IT...

Umbrella Shop

WHERE TO?

ALRIGHT, SHALL WE GO NOW?

STILL... THIS IS BEYOND MERE IMPROVEMENT OF AN ORIGINAL DESIGN.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

.....

SO HERE I AM. ♡

HUH? WELL, LIKE I SAID-- THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YOU...

CAN'T WE JUST HAVE A SHOWDOWN TO SETTLE THINGS THIS INSTANT?

...FOR HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU PLAN ON DOING THIS?

SLIP

NOW, NOW, I TOLD YOU I DON'T HAVE ANY HIDDEN AGENDA THIS TIME, DIDN'T I?

.....

Akaha

SLIDE

HOWDY!

SHIRO-KUN! WE CAME HERE TO PLAY!

WH-WAIT, SHIRO...

30 minutes later...

GACHAKA

WHOA! KO-CHAN AND SABU-CHAN! IT'S BEEN A WHILE~~~!!

HUH? ANRI-KUN?

N-NO! I MEAN...

HE'S RIGHT YOUR ANSWER WAS TOO ABSTRACT.

MY QUESTION WAS, WHAT DO YOU SEE IN A GIRL TO MAKE YOU THINK THAT SHE'S "CUTE"?

I TOLD YOU, YOU CAN'T USE THAT AS A STANDARD, KO-CHAN.

chuckle

PUSH

EH!?

FOR INSTANCE, HOW ABOUT THOSE FOUR GIRLS?

Man, this sounds like a talk students have during their school excursions...!!

BY THE WAY, WHAT ABOUT YOU, SABU-CHAN?

I- I THINK I'LL GO WITH THE SECOND GIRL FROM THE RIGHT... (SHE KINDA LOOKS LIKE AGURI-CHAN)

HMM...

ALL OF THEM ARE CUTE.

I THINK...

UGH.

WELL, KO-CHAN?

HMMM ..

IF YOU'RE FORCED TO CHOOSE, THERE HAS TO BE THE CUTEST OF THEM ALL, RIGHT?

A- AREN'T YOU GETTING THE WRONG IDEA?

What is he playing the good guy for!?

BUT I HAVE NEVER MET A GIRL WHO IS...

FLUUUUSHED

"NOT CUTE AT ALL" IN MY LIFE. SO..

WHAT!?

KO-CHAN ...

NEITHER HAVE SHIRO AND I!

J J !!!

WAIT, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU GUYS!! YOUR LOVE FOR HUMAN-KIND IS TOO DEEP!!

NOW I LOOK LIKE THE ONLY ONE WORLDLY HERE!!

I'VE HAD A TALK ABOUT THIS WITH SHIRO BEFORE.

LIKE, HOW WE'VE NEVER MET A GIRL

WHO ISN'T CUTE AT ALL.

"MEN WHO LOVE GOOD WOMEN".

MY POINT IS, MEN WHO PREFER ONLY A CERTAIN TYPE OF WOMEN ARE...

COME AGAIN?

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, SABU-CHAN. IT JUST MEANS THAT WE LOVE WOMEN A LOT.

I- I'M ANGRY, BUT I DON'T THINK HE'S COMPLETELY WRONG...

SERI-OUS-LY!?

NOW, THAT'S QUITE AN INSULT.

GRIND

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO A REAL WOMEN ADMI-RER,

HE CAN FALL HEAD OVER HEELS FOR ANY KIND OF WOMAN.

In any case, I must lead him away from Officer and Aragami-dono!!

Staying here while chatting nonsense... What exactly is his aim!?

Nii-ya...

It's about time...

Nii-ya.

fwip

fwip

fwip

WAVE

WAVE

Tsk... I've got no other choice. If I want to communicate with Nii-ya secretly, then *that* is the only way...!!

That's a really old technique you're using there, Shiro!!

LIFT

for you to leave.

I refuse.

Point

Back in the old days, the two of us used to communicate in that code...!!

You were so against using the code at first, calling it "Simply gross".

Bend your hips more, sexily like this.

I never thought you'd be the one to start using the code now!!

wiggle

wiggle

wiggle

No! ■ don't want to!

I'll see...

wiggle

wiggle

Please, just get to the point.

flip

flip

Hmm... lemme rethink about it.

shake

shake

whatever it is that you wanted to show me.

KISS

flip

flip

.....

YOU KNOW, IT'S LIKE WHEN KIDS CREATE SECRET CODES TO PLAY WITH THEIR FRIENDS.

flip

flip

THOSE SIGNALS REMIND ME OF HAND SIGNALS. IT MUST BE THAT CODE THING BETWEEN SWORN BROTHERS.

Though this is a weird one.

...WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

Oh, no.

...SECRET CODE

BETWEEN SWORN BROTHERS...

SECRET...

I want matching pencil cases with Saburota. Buy someone!

Me too

We have matching pencil cases--!!

YANK YANK

Shit. That's the kind of face he makes when he wants something

Me too I want to make a secret base with Saburotaaa

We just made a secret base--!

becomes annoying from wanting this and that. He's had that habit since [redacted] kids!!

See!? Here he comes--annoyingly!!

WE... WE'VE HAD ONE TOO RIGHT!? THAT SECRET... KIND OF THING.

SA-BU-RO-TA...

TURN

BUT THERE ISN'T!!

ARE YOU TRYING TO ALTER OUR PAST!?

DID YOU THINK I'D BUY THAT NONSENSE!? THERE HAS TO BE A SECRET BETWEEN US, SO DEEP THAT WE CAN'T FACE IT HEAD ON!!

YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE WHO CAN KEEP A SECRET.

NOPE. WE HAVE NOTHING OF THAT SORT.

GLARE

WHAAAAT!?

PULL

SHIRO-KUN!! WE'LL BE TAKING OUR LEAVE NOW!!

WELL, IF THERE ISN'T ANY, LET'S MAKE ONE! PRO-BLEM SOL-VED!!

AHAHA! KO-CHAN, YOU'RE AN INTEREST-ING FELLA~

.....

This guy is all fired up for some weird reason!!

RAWR

DON'T THINK THAT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO SHARES A BOND WITH YOUR SWORN BRO-THER!!!

.....!?

LET'S GO.

IT'S SOME-THING THAT YOU'RE INTER-ESTED IN AS WELL.

SO? WILL YOU SEE THE THING FOR YOURSELF, SHIRO?

BUT WHY!!

"Will you go with me to see a cat?

I love cats.

I love cat paws.

I want to be stepped on by a cat.

I want to be stepped on by every cat in the world.

I CAN'T DO THIS. THESE ARE HARD TO RE-MEMBER (AND POINT-LESS).

...KO-JIRO..

CLAMOR CLAMOR

WA- WOULD YOU STOP MISLEADING PEOPLE WITH YOUR WORDS!?

WE'LL SLIP OUT AND DO SOMETHING WE CAN'T TELL ANYBODY IN THAT CORNER OVER THERE! LET IT BE SOMETHING SO SHOCKING THAT IF IT'S LEAKED OUT, IT'LL BE IN THE FRONT PAGE OF THE NEWSPAPER!!

TH- THEN, LET'S MAKE A SECRET BETWEEN THE TWO OF US NOW!!

CLACK

CLACK

Yippee!! Are you serious, Saburota!!

URRRGH!! FINE, I GET IT!! I'LL TELL YOU MY SECRET NEXT TIME!!

HOW MUCH FURTHER, NII-YA?

What could there be in an oni-haunted place like this...

I SAID WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

YUP. HERE WE ARE.

TAKE A LOOK OVER THERE!!

COME QUICK-LY!

STEP

!!

I'VE FINALLY PER-FECT-ED...

AN AIR-PLANE!!

He did mention about this back when we were kids, but... To think that he'd really build a plane...

Impossi-ble...!!

I ARRI-VED SO EARLY, IT SUR-PRISED ME!

With this, I can come here anytime!

RIGHT AFTER I COMP-LETED THE PLANE, I CAME HERE RIDING IT!

SO,

...And that's precisely why everyone fears him...

Nii-ya has always been distinguished in the Organization for his intelligence.

LET'S RIDE THIS TOGETHER, SHIRO.

EVER BEEN A TIME WHEN I COULDN'T FULFILL YOUR DREAM?

HAS THERE..

EH?

I PROMISED YOU, DIDN'T I?

I CAME HERE FOR THAT.

YUP. IT'S THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE FOR MEN TO SOAR INTO THE SKY IN A MACHINE.

CAN YOU REALLY BUILD A PLANE?

...NII-YA.

I'M GENIUS AND GREAT ANYWAY!

OF COURSE!

Ahem!

THAT'S A PROMISE THEN! YOU'D BETTER NOT LIE TO ME.

SURE THING! ONCE I'VE BUILT A PLANE, LET'S RIDE IT TOGETHER!

OH, REALLY!? I WANNA RIDE ONE!

YOUR EVERY DREAM COME TRUE.

NII-YA WILL MAKE ...

WHEN I'M IN THE MOOD, IDEAS FLOW OUT OF MY HEAD UNCONTROLLABLY!

Like "WHOOSH"

WHA AAT!? ARE YOU TELLING ME THE TRUTH!?

LOOK, I'VE BROUGHT YOU A BOWL FULL OF RICE!

Rice

It's just a reflection on the water

LOOK, SHIRO!! I'VE CAUGHT THE MOON FOR YOU!!

OI, SHIRO!

THEY'RE NOT LIES! YOU SHOULD USE YOUR IMAGINATION A BIT

Ameha

UGH, ENOUGH!! YOU ALWAYS DO THINGS HALF-HEARTEDLY, NII-YA!! YOU'RE A LIAR!!

THEY'RE NOTHING? I JUST MADE A TINY MISTAKE WHEN I WENT TO STEAL THIS...

WH-WHAT ARE THOSE WOUNDS, NII-YA!?

I'VE BROUGHT YOU A BOWL FULL OF RICE!!

STEAL ...!?

!?

WHAT

UGH!

STU-PID NII-YA!!

.....

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

NOW, EAT THIS!! OKAY?

STU-PID NII-YAA AA!!

WAIT, SHIRO ...

I JUST WANTED TO EAT TOGET-HER WITH YOU, NII-YA!

I JUST WANTED TO HAVE FUN WITH YOU!

YOU'RE WRONG!! THIS IS NOT WHAT I WANT! NOT IN THE LEAST!!

WHACK

WHA-WHAT ARE YOU DOING!! I DON'T GET YOU!

WHACK

...SHIRO

sniffle

UGH ... UUH ...

HUG

STUPID NII-YAA AA...

Time and time again...

COME.

WHAT ARE YOU SPACING OUT FOR?

...NII-YA.

I find myself wondering what his intentions are.

SOON, YOU AND I WILL HAVE TO KILL EACH OTHER... RIGHT?

OH, COME ON.

SIGH

IT'S A PLAN YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON SINCE THAT DAY WHEN WE WERE SMALL.

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO PLANNED IT.

HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING SO SUD-DENLY?

Ahaha!

MUST YOU AND I BE ON BAD TERMS *JUST* BECAUSE WE HAVE TO KILL EACH OTHER?

...NOTHING, YOU SAID?

EVEN IF THAT WERE THE CASE, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE AIRPLANE.

WHAT I'M SAYING IS, THIS AND THAT ARE TWO DIFFERENT...

SNAP

!!!

WHACK

STOMP

WHA --

WHAT ARE YOU...

SLIP

THROW

THUD

THUD

THUD

THUD

!!!

FWISH

STA

ARGH !!

GWAHH!

SHIRO, YOU ASS-HOLE ...

ARE YOU LOOKING DOWN ON ME, BAS-TARD...!!

WHEEZE

THERE'S NO POINT IN PUT-TING OFF THIS FIGHT ANY LONGER.

NOW

IS THE RIGHT TIME.

BA

!!

SHIN-
ZO-
SAN
...!!

SHIN-

YOUR BODY'S BEEN WEAKENING AGAIN LATELY. YOU'D BETTER STOP NOW

DID YOU THINK I'D LOSE TO SHIRO?!

I CAN'T LET YOU AND SHIRO DIE NOW.

SHINZO, YOU!! THAT WAS UNCALLED FOR!!

HUH!?

AND WHY IS THAT!?

LET'S GO BACK, ANRI. SHIRO WILL NEVER RIDE THIS THING WITH YOU, ANYWAY.

HUH!?

MAKE SHIRO FEEL DEJECTED WITH YOUR SMILE.

ANRI

YOU ALWAYS...

PAK!

THAT'S FOR CERTAIN. HOW-EVER...

THE TWO OF YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ONE.

SINCE LONG AGO,

SOLITARY.

BOTH OF YOU ARE ALWAYS

That kick did me quite a dam-age...

I think I broke a few ribs...

WOBBLE

pant-

Ugh... This is all Nii-ya's fault...

CLACK

JUST ...

HURRY UP AND DIE ...!!

... UGH.

MUST WE BE ON BAD TERMS ...

JUST BECAUSE WE HAVE TO KILL EACH OTHER?

His fault ...

SHIRO, I PROMISED YOU, DIDN'T I?

HEY, BOY! NEVER SEEN YOU AROUND HERE!

COME AND HAVE SOME DRINK!

I don't care anymore...

I've had enough ...

CLACK

What-ever.

.....

...AL-RIGHT.

...What-ever happens, I don't care.

SHIRO-KUN!

SUCH A COINCI-DENCE TO SEE YOU HERE.

HM?

STEP

YOUR FACE IS RED

OH... I JUST BAR-HOPPED ...

WHAT!? YOU MUST'VE DRUNK TOO MUCH!

HUH? WHAT'S THE MATTER?

I ADMIRE THE RE-LATION-SHIP YOU HAVE WITH ANRI-KUN...

I THINK SABUROTA WILL TELL ME HIS SECRET TOMORROW.

AH, THAT'S RIGHT. LISTEN TO ME, SHIRO-KUN.

I KNOW YOU'LL THINK I'M IMMATURE, BUT FOR SOME REASON.

?

OH.

WHAT?

YOU'RE A VERY HAPPY-GO-LUCKY GUY, OFFICER.

.....

RE-ALLY ...?

ONLY THOSE WHO LIVE

chuckle

IN A CONVENIENT AND BEAUTIFUL PLACE POSSES SUCH A FANCIFUL IDEA.

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN? YOU'RE A BIT STRANGE.

... SHIRO-KUN?

Ahaha!

IT'S OBVI-OUSLY BETTER FOR SWORN BRO-THERS

IF THEY SHARE NO SECRETS!

SLAP

PLEASE DON'T TOUCH ME.

BOTHER ME AGAIN.

NEVER

Note: Shiro's speech in this panel is informal, strongly banning Kojiro from caring about him.

THROB

AH, OI! KOJI-RO! THERE YOU ARE.

W- Why!? Was it something I said...!?

S-SHI-RO-KUN..

STEP

YEAH ...

I KNOW.

OH.

PULL

QUIT SLACKING OFF! WE'RE ON PATROL!

DON'T YOU THINK YOU DRANK TOO MUCH TODAY?

HEY, SHIRO~

HE'S TRYING TO GET THE GIRLS' ATTEN-TION.

MAN, THAT BRAT S PISSING ME OFF.

.....

SHE'S RIGHT. AND YOU SEEM KIND OF DEPRES-SED...

AHA! THERE YOU GO AGAIN, SHIRO!

pull

FUFU. I'M SURE I'LL GET BETTER IF YOU NURSE ME.

OI.

!!

SLAM

TSK!!

HE'S GET-TING FULL OF HIM-SELF!!

D- DEAR GUEST, PLEASE STOP IT...!!!

THIS AREA IS OUR TERRITORY, SO DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK!! SHITTY BRAT!!

HAHAHA!! GO ON! GET HIM!!

WHAM

WHAM

UUUUUU!

THUD

Is it because of the alcohol?

The alcohol?

...I can't move my body... Why?

SMACK

My surrounding is always...

a repetition of a scene like this.

...I remember.

...Ah. Everything before my eyes is covered in red.

DRIP

But...

GOT IT SHIRO?

I must-- I must save Nii-ya

Nii-ya was always in pain.

KEEP YOUR POWER A SECRET.

EVEN IF I NEARLY DIE, YOU MUST NEVER LEND A HAND TO HELP ME.

AND I WILL DIE.

.....

BREAK THIS PROMISE AND YOU WON'T BE MY YOUNGER BROTHER ANYMORE.

IF YOU DON'T, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.

...Even so, I...

sought Nii-ya.

C'MERE, SHIRO.

.....

THIS S TOO HARD FOR ME... I'D BE MUCH HAPPIER IF I WERE THE ONE BEATEN UP INSTEAD...

... BUT NII-YA ...

I sought him.

AM I CLEAR, SHIRO?

IF YOU WANT TO BE MY SWORN BROTHER THAT BADLY,

PROM-ISE ME THAT...

THE PROM-ISED TIME.

YOU WILL KILL ME AT

IF YOU CAN'T PROMISE ME THAT, THEN...

KILL ME.

BUT DON'T SYMPA-THIZE WITH ME.

WHEN THE TIME COMES, I MIGHT NE-GOTIATE, CRY, OR YELL.

RIGHT NOW.

I WILL DIE

while running toward the darkness?

laugh

Why do you always

Oh, Nii-ya.

Nii-ya

Nii-ya

Don't go over to that side.

Any-one!

Oh

Any-one!

The dark-ness has cap-tured my feet.

SHIRO-KUN!!

I...

CRACK

SHATTER

...OH, LOOK.

I THINK HE SAID SOME-THING.

THAT'S ENOUGH!! PLEASE STOP!

...ICER..

...OFFI.

OF...

OFFICER!!

WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO HIM...!!

S-SHI-RO-KUN!! I KNOW IT'S YOU!

Gerrfy Police Station

NO WAY!

THERE WAS A REPORT SAYING THAT A GUY WAS IN A FIGHT WITH SOME DRUNK GUESTS.

WE TOOK HIM IN JUST NOW.

WHAT!?

IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS. BESIDES, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.

WE'VE PUT A CORSET ON HIM. ALL THAT'S LEFT TO DO IS LET HIS RIBS HEAL NATURALLY.

WE HAD A DOCTOR EXAMINE HIM AND HE SAID A FEW OF HIS RIBS ARE BROKEN.

SHIRO-KUN!!

O.. OFFI-CER ...?

...UH ...

WHY! WHY DIDN'T YOU FIGHT BACK, SHIRO-KUN!!

I... I... AM SOR... RY...

OH... AH.. OFFI-CER..

SHI-RO-KUN!!

HE'S PRETTY DRUNK HIMSELF, SO...

HE MIGHT NOT BE FULLY CONS-CIOUS.

I'M S... SORRY..

.....

TO-DAY ...

I...

TOOK MY AN-GER ...

OUT... ON YOU ...

I FAL-TERED OVER SOME-THING SO TRIVIAL...

CLENCH

THIS IS MY FAULT ...

NEVER BOTHER ME AGAIN!

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE IN SUCH A BAD SHAPE THAT YOU WOUND UP LIKE THIS.

I'M SORRY .. SH RO-KUN...

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!!

AND DIDN'T RUN AFTER YOU, WHO WASN'T ACTING LIKE YOUR USUAL SELF...!!

RATTLE
RATTLE
SHIRO-KUN.
WE'LL ARRIVE AT YOUR HOUSE SOON.
SO REST ASSURED
I'LL NURSE YOU BACK TO HEALTH.
I wonder why I was that shocked.
my body wouldn't move for some reason.
when you rejected me back then,
..I'M REALLY SORRY FOR WHAT I DID TODAY.
It's just...

...I CAUSED THE INCI-DENT TODAY.

Saburota also told me.

you're a very, very dear friend to me.

I know now that

YOU WANTED TO SHARE A SECRET WITH ME

I MEAN, TH'S IS WHAT I HONESTLY FEEL BUT, WHEN YOU SAID THAT...

YEAH

NAH, NONE OF THIS IS YOUR FAULT. THOUGH, I MUST AGREE THAT YOU WERE INDEED TOO CHILDISH.

WHAT !?

AM I WRONG?

AS A THIRD-PARTY, I CAN TELL THAT YOU JUST WANTED TO GET SHIRO'S ATTENTION.

Though it seems like you don't realize it your-self

YOU GOT JEALOUS.

BECAUSE ANRI AND SHIRO LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE VERY CLOSE,

Even I don't know the answer.

...Why am I so deeply attached to you?

I'm not sure though.

I know this sounds strange, but I think I've been aware of your presence since a long time ago.

WELL, YOU DO HAVE A CHILDISH STREAK AFTER ALL...

Jealousy between friends, huh? Are you a grade schooler?

HUUH!?

blussh

This is so embarrassing... I wanna dig up a hole and hide there!

I feel that there's always a faraway look in your eyes.

Sometimes, it makes me uneasy..

...Whenever I realize it,

SKIP

KOJIRO TOOK HIM BACK.

WHERE'S THE KID THAT WE SAVED A WHILE AGO?

HM?

I want him to rely on me more.

I want Shiro-kun to believe in me

THAT EXPLAINS IT.

OH! SO THAT KID IS KOJIRO'S ACQUAIN-TANCE?

I want you to depend on me.

When you go through hard times,

HE WAS DRUNK AND YELLING OUT LOUD

WHEN WE TRIED TO SAVE HIM

YEAH.

I want you to call out to me.

"OFFI-CER!"

"OFFI-CER!"

if you did that.

How happy I'd be

squeeze

!!?

ARE YOU OKAY? YOU'RE TREM-BLING!

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

...SHI-RO-KUN.

NGH

NN

this is quite a serious matter.

for Shiro-kun to expose his weakness to this extent means that...

He's still uncon-scious, but

SHI-RO-KUN ...

...I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.

the kind of person who gets hurt from thinking about someone else more than yourself.

I'm sure you're...

...I guess, you must have something important to you.

I PROMISE.

EVERY-THING THAT'S DEAR TO YOU.

I'LL SUP-PORT YOU AND

SHI-RO-KUN,

AH, RIGHT THANKS.

WE'VE ARRI-VED!

SIR!

Never ...

...I must not repeat the mis-take I did today.

Huh...?

There's someone in front of Shiro-kun's shop...

TAKE CARE.

GOOD WORK, SIR.

I CAME TO THIS SHOP BECAUSE I HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH YOSHI-WARA-KUN WHO LIVES HERE.

THANK GOOD-NESS!

OH! ARE YOU FROM THIS NEIGH-BOR-HOOD?

turn

AH!

For the sake of keeping my promise to you,

AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE?

I will

SMILE

MY NAME IS SAKURA HARUMI

anything

I'M SHIRO-KUN'S OLD FRIEND

to be continued...

Raws: monn
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Proofreader: enchantedlights
Editor: Selva666d
Quality Checker: monn
lovescanlations.wordpress.com

~ADEKAN COMPANY~ -AN EXTRA MANGA-

...it is a company that is currently discussing the sales of fashionable loincloth.

Black is the colour for this summer!!

Comfortable!

PATTERNS FOR MALES

Using "Making your lower body part more comfortable!" as slogan...

The Adekan Company

THE DESIGN FROM OUR COMPANY SHOULD BE MORE ORIGINAL!!

LIKE I SAID!

In the president's room inside this building, a discussion is going on between the three people known as the elites of the elites.

Product Developer & Unisex Loincloth Model: Yashiwara

EXAMPLE

hole

Because "it" will always be in hanging state, you can wear this anytime, including when you're aroused!!

Loin cloth with front hole attached

THERE'S TOO MUCH FREEDOM THERE, IT'S *PERVERTISH*. IF WE WEAR THAT, OUR PRIDE AS MEN WILL DANGLE OUT JUST LIKE "IT" WILL!

I USED THE IMAGE OF PROUD MEN SEEKING FREEDOM WITHOUT ANY RESTRICTIONS!!

Product Developer & Sexy Loincloth Model: Anri Sanshe

IF YOU LOOK AT THE DATA, THERE ARE TOO MANY POINTLESS TYPES OF LOINCLOTH.

Lame fabric

High-leg type loin-cloth

EXAMPLE

COMPARED TO THAT, I THINK WE SHOULD CONSIDER MAKING A MORE FUNCTIONAL AND SEXY LOINCLOTH.

INSTEAD, WE SHOULD MAKE RELIABLE PRODUCTS CREATED UNDER PROPER CRAFTS-MANSHIP!!

It feels good to wear

Heavy Material Loincloth

Product Developer & Orthodox Loincloth Model: Yamada Kojiro

NO! SEXI-NESS IS UNNECES-SARY!!

Current Length

Ideal Length

TO SHORTEN THE SKIRT OF THE COMPANY'S FEMALE WORKERS BY 17CM!!

IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT CRAFTS-MANSHIP, WHAT WE SHOULD DO IS ASK MATSUOKA, THE TAILOR KNOWN AS 'THE DIVINE SKIRT MASTER'...

NO WAY!!

VEHEMENTLY AGREED!!

Current Back View

Back of the knees

RIGHT, RIGHT! THEY NEED TO GRACEFULLY SHOW OFF THE BACK OF THEIR KNEES, DAMN IT!

EXACTLY! IT REDUCES THE BEALITY OF A LADY'S LEG LINE BY HALF!

SERIOUSLY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR COMPANY'S FEMALE UNIFORM!? THE LENGTH IS JUST SO HALF-ASSED!!

Secretary

THIS IS THE END OF MY COMPANY...

AS FOR ME, I ALSO LIKE BAR-MON BROWN (STOCK-INGS).

AHH~ I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN! I WISH THE SECRETARY WERE A GIRL WHO LOOKS GOOD IN NUDE BEIGE STOCKINGS!

AND I JUST CAN'T ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THE PRE-SIDEN'TS SECRECTARY IS AN OLD GEEZER!

PRESIDENT

END

VOL.2

HUH~ THAT'S A DIFFICULT QUESTION. I MEAN, IT DEPENDS ON WHAT TYPE OF A GIRL SHE IS TOO, RIGHT?

HEY.

DO YOU PREFER A CHUBBY GIRL OR A SLENDER GIRL?

On board: Adekan Corp.

I PER-SONALLY I PREFER A BIG-BREASTED GIRL IN WHITE ROBE.

Heh

WELL, I LIKE BOTH CHUBBY AND SLENDER GIRLS...

KO-CHAN, YOU SURE ARE AN ELOQUENT PERVERT.

SHOULD I JUST CLOSE THIS COMPANY?

END

THAT'S AGAINST THE RULE!!

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